



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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CONTENTS

10 March 1993

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

West Seen Gearing for Confronting Fundamentalism [London AL-HAYAH 6 Mar]	1
Implications of U.S. Decision To Cut Aid Assessed [London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 6 Mar]	1
Claimed Islamic Ties to NY Bombing Rejected [London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 6 Mar]	2

Islamic Affairs

Islamic World League Hails Afghan Agreement [SPA]	2
---	---

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Said Seeking To Accept Talks Invitation [AL-QUDS 9 Mar]	3
'Abd-al-Shafi Says Talks Linked To Deportees [Jerusalem Radio]	3
Palestinians Refuse To Accept Talks Invitation [AFP]	3
Further on Palestinian Rejection [AFP]	4
'Arafat Speech Hails Intifadah Anniversary [Algiers VOP]	4
'Arafat Interviewed on Peace Talks [London AL-HAYAH 6 Mar]	5
Christopher Said To Seek Jordan's Help on Palestinians [London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 6 Mar]	8
U.S. Media 'Storm' Against Arabs, Muslims Criticized [AL-FAJR 8 Mar]	8
Hamas Reportedly Demanding To Join PLO Bodies [AL-DUSTUR 10 Mar]	9
Hamas Gives Name of Contacted Spanish Diplomat [Paris Radio Monte Carlo]	9
Fatah Claims Responsibility for Israeli Death [Algiers VOP]	9
Mainstream Fatah Arrests FRC 'Sabotage Network' [AL-SAFIR 4 Mar]	9
PLO Officials, UK's Hogg Hold Talks in London [cross-reference]	9

South Asian Regional Affairs

SAARC Summit Scheduled in Dhaka 10-11 April [LANKAPUVATH]	10
---	----

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Six Fundamentalists Shot Dead Near Sidi bel Abbes [Paris International]	11
Terrorist Group's Trial Postponed; Further Incidents [Algiers Radio]	11
HCE Statement on Development of Democracy [APS]	11
Prison Sentences Handed Out in External Bank Fraud Case [Algiers Radio]	12
Government Spokesman on Aspects of Economic Program [Algiers Radio]	12
Algiers Police Crack Down on Price Gouging, Speculation [Algiers Radio]	13
Government White Paper on Controlling Inflationary Spiral [Algiers Radio]	13
Budget Official Warning on Money Supply [APS]	13
Abdessaalam Receives Delegation From Agricultural Union [APS]	13

Egypt

Al-Asad, Peres Reportedly To Visit Cairo [Paris Radio Monte Carlo]	14
PLO's Mahmud 'Abbas Arrives in Cairo [MENA]	14
PLO's Sha'ih Urges Revival of Six-Point Plan [MENA]	14

Violence Erupts in Imbabah, Aswan; 20 Killed [AFP]	14
Western 'Discrimination' Against Islam Regretted [MENA]	15
Statement To Be Made on Officials' Dismissal [AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY]	15
Education Minister Rescinds Students' Dismissal [AL-AKHBAR 5 Mar]	16
Minister Discusses Privatization Priorities [MENA]	16
Commander Discusses Modernization of Naval Forces [AL-JUMHURIYAH 6 Mar]	16
'Effective' Antitank Missile Developed [Cairo Radio]	16

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Oil, Economic Experts [Tripoli TV]	17
People's Congress Secretary Meets Iranian Envoy [Tripoli Radio]	21
Iraqi Minister Visits National General Fair [JANA]	21

Sudan

License for Cairo University's Khartoum Branch Revoked [MENA]	22
Iraqi Industry Minister Arrives for Talks [INA]	22
TNA Chairman Leads Delegation to Nigeria [Omdurman Radio]	22
Further Report [SUNA]	22

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Foreign Minister Hails Afghan Accord [Kuwait Radio]	23
---	----

Saudi Arabia

Prince Sultan Receives Afghan, Pakistani Leaders in Medina [Riyadh Radio]	23
Pakistan's Sharif on Afghan Accord [Islamabad Radio]	23

United Arab Emirates

Diplomatic Relations Established With Panama [WAKH]	23
---	----

IRAQ

Deal on Oil, Intelligence Reportedly Offered to Washington [London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 7 Mar]	24
Two Nuclear Scientists Reported Killed [Voice of Kurdistan]	24
Human Rights Report on Marshlands Criticized [INA]	24
Saddam Receives Civil, Religious Figures in al-Najaf [Baghdad Radio]	25

ISRAEL

Invitation to 20 April Peace Talks Issued [AFP]	26
News Received With 'Satisfaction' [HA'ARETZ 10 Mar]	26
Beilin Hopes for Breakthrough [Jerusalem Radio]	26
Shahaq Warns of Repercussions of Hizballah Policy [Jerusalem TV]	27
IDF Kills Arab Student, Wounds 2 After Stoning [Jerusalem Radio]	27
Egypt's Envoy Opposes Gaza Pullback Without Preparation [Jerusalem Radio]	27
IDF General Briefs Knesset Committee on Gaza Situation [Tel Aviv Radio]	27
State Buying Lands To Avoid Possible Future Compensation [Jerusalem Radio]	28
Slight Shift Seen in al-Asad's Stand on Golan [HA'ARETZ 9 Mar]	28
Poll on Government Security Policy [YEDI'OT AHARONOT 10 Mar]	29
Industrial Investments Approved for Ma'ale Efrayim [HADASHOT 8 Mar]	30
Sarid: Nuclear Reactors 'Totally Safe' [Jerusalem Radio]	30
IDF Field Rations To Be Sent to Bosnia [YEDI'OT AHARONOT 4 Mar]	30
Scientific Agreement Signed With Russia [Jerusalem Radio]	30

JORDAN

Government Receives U.S.-Russian Invitation to Peace Talks [Amman Radio]	31
'Abd-al-Majali on Talks, Other Issues [AL-QUDS 9 Mar]	31
Arms Cache Seized; Links With Iran Alleged [London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 8 Mar]	31
Egyptian Counselor To Arrive Today en Route to Baghdad [AL-DUSTUR 10 Mar]	31
Cabinet Reshuffle Expected After 'Id al-Fitr [AL-FAJR 9 Mar]	32

LEBANON

Buwayz Receives Invitation to Peace Talks [Beirut Radio]	33
Al-Hariri Says Country 'Abandoned', Praises Syria [Beirut Radio]	33
Foreign Ministry Official Reportedly Resigns [VOM]	33
Defense Minister Discusses Israeli Goals [Cairo International]	33
Writer Ridicules Accusations Against Arabs [AL-SAFIR 6 Mar]	34
U.S. Media Said to Wage 'War' on Islam, Muslims [Voice of the Oppressed]	36
Islamic Ulema Leaders on Syrian, Iranian Ties [KEYHAN 24 Feb]	36
Bomb Thrown at Kuwaiti Embassy 9 Mar; No Damage [VOL]	38
Towns Shelled, Areas Declared 'Military Region' [Voice of the Oppressed]	38
Israeli Flights, Shelling Reported in South [VOL]	38

SYRIA

PLO's Qaddumi Holds Talks With al-Shar' [Damascus Radio]	39
Says Talks Participation Suspended [Paris Radio Monte Carlo]	39
Meets Vice President Khaddam [Damascus Radio]	39
Al-Shar' Receives Peace Talks Invitation [Damascus Radio]	39
Talks Said 'Useless' Unless Israel Changes Stand [Damascus Radio]	39
Israel Said To Be Escalating Repression [Damascus Radio]	40

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Fresh Bombardment of Kabul Kills 22 [Kabul Radio]	42
Senior Security Official Killed on Duty [Kabul Radio]	42
Cease-Fire Committee Established in Kabul [Islamabad Radio]	42
Northern Forces Deploy in Supervisory Council Posts [Radio Message of Freedom]	42
Education Delegation Returns From Turkey, Iran [Kabul Radio]	42

Bangladesh

French Defense Ministry Delegation Arrives [Dhaka Radio]	43
Efforts To Resume Dialogue With Tribal Insurgents [DAINIK ITTEFAQ 1 Mar]	43
Communist Party Decides To Change Name, Policy [DAINIK ITTEFAQ 1 Mar]	43
Australia To Provide Wheat Grant Worth 260 Million Taka [Dhaka Radio]	44
Bureaucratic Control Impedes Agricultural Development [DAINIK ITTEFAQ 4 Feb]	44

INDIA

AIADMK-Congress-I Ends Alliance in Tamil Nadu [Delhi Radio]	45
Parties React to Split [Delhi Radio]	45
Government Denies Rao Link With Andhra Loan Issue [Delhi Radio]	45
Rao Wants U.S. Cooperation in Technology Transfer [Delhi Radio]	45
Islamabad Says Indian Troops Kill 20 in Kashmir [Islamabad TV]	46
Commentary Criticizes Pakistan, UN on Kashmiri Rights [Delhi International]	46
Retention of Country's Nuclear Option Defended [INDIAN EXPRESS 27 Feb]	46
Commentary Views Ties With Central Asian Republics [Delhi International]	47
Promotion of Trade Ties With Vietnam Encouraged [Delhi International]	48
New Regional Political Party Formed in Sikkim State [Delhi Radio]	48
Paper Dismisses Search for Political Third Force [INDIAN EXPRESS 6 Mar]	49

Iran

Pakistani, Afghan Leaders To Meet President [IRNA]	49
Borujerdi Views Afghan Peace Accord Prospects [Tehran TV]	49
Commentary Views Prospects for Afghan Peace Accord [Tehran Radio]	50
Japanese Envoy Told Nuclear Allegation 'Pretext' [IRNA]	50
Visiting Comoran Ministers Meet Velayati [Tehran Radio]	51
Meet Hashemi-Rafsanjani [Tehran Radio]	51
Demirel's 'Irresponsible, Hasty Behavior' Noted [JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 1 Mar]	51
Industries Minister on Economic Situation [RESALAT 1 Mar]	52
Italy Seeks Promotion of Trade Cooperation [IRNA]	54
Daily Denigrates Performance of Mass Media [SALAM 24 Feb]	55
Azerbaijan, Gilan Province Sign Cooperation Protocol [Tehran International]	56
Judiciary Meeting on Modernizing Procedures [Tehran Radio]	56
Nonstate Sector Controls 85 Percent of Mines [Tehran Radio]	56
Customs Office Reports on Non-Oil Exports [Tehran Radio]	56

Pakistan

U.S. Decision To Declare Iran Terrorist State Viewed [PAKISTAN 9 Mar]	56
President Khan Meets Ambassador on U.S. Relations [NAWA-I-WAQT 8 Mar]	56
Court Rules Northern Areas Part of Kashmir [AFP]	57
Government To Appeal Decision [AFP]	57
Spokesman Wants Indian Dialogue Without 'Preconditions' [Islamabad Radio]	57
Government Role in Afghan Peace Talks Praised [THE FRONTIER POST 9 Mar]	58
Sharif To Pay Brief Visit to Tehran 11 March [Islamabad TV]	58
71 on Death Row in Saudi Arabia on Drug Charges [THE NEWS 9 Mar]	58
Sharif Establishes Task Force on Central Asia [Islamabad TV]	59
Comments on CIA Chief Remarks on Nuclear Issue [NAWA-I-WAQT 3 Mar]	59

Sri Lanka

Concern Over Adverse Balance of Trade With India [Colombo Radio]	60
Foreign Investment Projects Approved This Year [Colombo Radio]	60

Inter-Arab Affairs

West Seen Gearing for Confronting Fundamentalism

PM0903164993 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
6 Mar 93 p 17

[George Sam'an article: "Declaration of Confrontation"]

[Text] Some people like to cast doubt on the findings of the U.S. security agencies regarding the New York explosion, like saying that the detained suspect could not possibly have committed such a major act which required vast experience in explosive devices and that he could not have parked the car bomb in the right place without a major and effective network behind him and without accurate knowledge of the Trade Center's layout. They talk about the "innocence" or "naivete" of the suspect, who should have left the country after committing his act or at least should not have returned to the car rental company to reclaim his \$400.

The answers to all that and similar talk fall within the jurisdiction of the judiciary and of the organs investigating the crime, assuming the culprit is found guilty. What is important in this issue is the political aspect, repercussions, and dimensions. If the suspect is convicted then fundamentalism would have moved the battle to the very heart of what it calls "the great satan." If not, then the mere disclosure that the suspect belonged to a Middle Eastern Islamic fundamentalist group would reinforce the claim which Western and non-Western circles are trying to make the hallmark of a policy that is meant to be the backbone of the new world order, that claim being that Islamic fundamentalism has replaced communism and that the future conflict is with that "threat" to the international community which is taking the battle to the heart of that community.

The announcement of the arrest of that fundamentalist on a charge of blowing up a building in the city which symbolizes the international community or the new world order may signal the start of the confrontation of that "threat." It has coincided with measures and actions including the U.S. Administration's decision to halt its dialogue with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]—accusing it of being a "terrorist" movement—the administration's warning of a fundamentalist or "terrorist" threat to American tourists visiting Jordan, and, not last, the declaration by the U.S. ambassador in Khartoum that the international community should be prepared for greater and more serious intervention in Sudan, which is ruled by a fundamentalist regime.

The announcement of the start of the confrontation coincides with Arab insistence on the repatriation of the Palestinian deportees, most of whom belong to Islamic fundamentalist movements, as a precondition for progress in the negotiations with Israel, if not for the resumption of these negotiations. It also coincides with Western and Israeli affirmations that the fundamentalist movements—from Hizballah in Lebanon via the Islamic resistance in the occupied Arab territories to all the

extremist movements in the Arab world—are the main obstacle to peace in the Middle East. Furthermore, some Israelis are calling for withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, where fundamentalist influence is growing.

All this leads to one clear conclusion, which is that confrontation with the fundamentalist trends will escalate in the Arab world. Already there is an ongoing confrontation between several Arab regimes and these trends. What the entire Arab system and Arab society should be aware of is that a major part of the responsibility for the growth of these trends falls on the West and on Israel. If the extremists and fundamentalists have to be weakened and confronted, that should not override the peace process and should not be used to pressure the Arab negotiators into making more concessions, which were and still are a main factor fueling the extremist movements and strengthening their calls for the overthrow of these regimes. Confrontation with fundamentalism would then evolve into internal Arab wars that would spare nothing. Is that what is required? Are the Americans forgetting that eliminating a main factor exploited by the fundamentalists is better and more effective than weakening them?

Implications of U.S. Decision To Cut Aid Assessed

PM0903174593 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Mar 93 p 9

[Ali Ibrahim article: "Reduction of U.S. Aid to Middle East"]

[Text] There is a new U.S. economic policy with regard to foreign aid. The region which will be affected most by it is the Middle East. This is because the U.S. Administration is seeking to reduce spending and dispense with any category of spending that can be deleted, since the budget deficit has reached a record level. In the Middle East Israel is the biggest beneficiary of U.S. economic and military aid in the world. Egypt comes second. Jordan too receives substantial aid.

There have recently been indications which prove this U.S. move. The U.S. ambassador to Israel openly warned that U.S. aid, which represents 7-8 percent of the Israeli budget, will be reduced. And Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa openly indicated that the aid will be reduced in the coming years. There are similar signals with regard to Jordan.

The main reason for this move could be to reduce the U.S. budget deficit. But political reasons could also be behind the move. This is because aid on such a scale is usually tied to political aims concerning balances of power and political aims. With regard to Israel, which has been receiving U.S. aid since the fifties and sixties, it seems that its political role vis-a-vis Washington has become less important since the collapse of the former Soviet Union. Besides, it cannot rely on U.S. aid forever.

With regard to the Arab parties, especially Egypt, it is believed that the aid is linked to a certain period which is bound to end one day.

There may also be another strategic reason with regard to the U.S. view, and the Western view in general, of the Middle East, namely that the region should rely on itself through regional economic integration if an Arab-Israeli peace agreement is signed, on the grounds that the region has all the financial, natural, and human resources necessary for a regional allocation of roles within the framework of regional development. Everyone knows that this is one of the topics assigned to the multilateral committees in the peace negotiations. Reducing aid serves this objective, because it prompts the parties concerned to look for alternatives.

This raises two major questions: First, do the Arab parties have an integrated, strong view of their economic role in the face of the other proposals so that they can occupy a place that matches their size, aspirations, and interests? Second, are there economic reform plans to secure self-reliance?

This shows the importance of the economic reform policies being implemented by the Arab states concerned and the importance of securing forms of mutual benefit based on real economic motives among Arab economies.

Claimed Islamic Ties to NY Bombing Rejected

PM0903162793 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Mar 93 p 9

[Editorial: "Attempts To Distort Islam"]

[Text] It is clear that there is an organized malicious campaign designed to portray Islam as hostile to peace, tolerance, and clarity of opinion. This sedition is active in more than one location, be it in the former Yugoslav federation, where Muslims are experiencing the ugliest types of attacks and arouse a conscience crisis in the world as a whole, or the Israeli Government's deportation of more than 400 people who are now homeless in the desert, exposed to snow and cold, without any consideration for human rights, whose protection is a mark of the age.

And now the bombing of the World Trade Center in New York is being attributed to a Muslim. He is said to have links with a terrorist organization belonging to Islam.

This campaign, which involves Islam in anything, finds golden opportunities in some naive people or maniacs who state before the television cameras that they sanction random killing and political terrorism for the sake of their so-called aims. So these statements appear as irrefutable testimonies to the violence and destruction Islam is threatening. These terrorist operations are characterized by cowardice and conspiracy—which provokes the indignation of public opinion throughout the world, including the Islamic world, of course.

If a little reason is applied, one will find it difficult to determine the motives for the crime. What will Muslims gain from bombing a U.S. trade center, especially at this particular time, when U.S. public opinion is sympathetic toward the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Palestinians deported by Israel, and Arab and Islamic issues in general. It is clear that these operations completely conflict with Arab and Islamic interests, so who is the beneficiary?

Some news agencies said yesterday that U.S. security services had discovered an Israeli's telephone number in the possession of the arrested Muslim youth, and that the Israeli man's apartment was searched and found to contain cables, electric and electronic circuits, and electromagnetic devices—components for making and detonating bombs.

A few days ago Israeli President Hayim Herzog made statements in The Hague (Netherlands) in which he claims that Islamic fundamentalism is spreading in the world as a whole, not just in the Middle East.

We do not want to overtake events. But using terrorist operations throughout the world to harm Islam and Muslims and develop a world campaign of hatred against them cannot—obviously—be the work of Muslims. And it is better to search for the beneficiary of these crimes, in implementation of the golden rule known in the literature of crime.

Islamic Affairs

Islamic World League Hails Afghan Agreement

LD0903191693 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1645 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Mecca, 9 Mar (SPA)—The General Secretariat of the Islamic World League has hailed the efforts of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, for establishing peace in Afghanistan.

The Secretariat also praises the response of the leaders of the Afghan mujahedin and their reaction to the efforts of the custodian of the two holy mosques. It believes that the agreement reached by the leaders of the Afghan mujahedin the day before yesterday is a formula for peace which straightens things out and achieves the aspirations and hopes of the Islamic nation.

In a statement issued today, the General Secretariat of the Islamic World League stresses the necessity for the leaders of the Afghan mujahedin to continue the understanding and dialogue and to solve issues with wisdom according to the teachings of the true religion.

It also welcomes the visit of the leaders of the Afghan mujahedin to the holy places during this holy month and pointed out the important meaning of this visit.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Said Seeking To Accept Talks Invitation

TA0903163093 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic
9 Mar 93 p 2

[By Khayrallah Khayrallah]

[Excerpt] Tunis—Informed Palestinian sources in Tunis have said that the meetings held by the Palestinian leadership in recent days were, in fact, aimed at finding a formula by which the leadership would announce its acceptance of the invitation for the ninth round of bilateral negotiations.

Those sources expected the cosponsors of the peace conference to extend the invitations to the ninth round shortly and that this round would begin on 16 April.

The same sources explained that despite growing voices within the Palestinian leadership, this leadership has begun to realize that the deportee issue has to a great extent been transformed into an internal Palestinian problem, which could be used to hamper the Palestinian decision-making and depict the leadership in Tunis as shackled, and that another political force, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], was able to adversely affect the Palestinian decision-making.

In a related development, a Palestinian official who recently met with Hamas representatives in Amman said that the PLO leadership has tried to convince Hamas that the deportee issue is being exploited against the Palestinian leadership in order to undermine the Palestinian position by portraying the PLO as unable to adopt clear decisions on one hand, and on the other hand that it is not the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Shafi Says Talks Linked To Deportees

JN1003124593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1030
GMT 10 March 93

[Interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, by 'Umar Zaydani, carried within the "With the Midday Events" on 10 March—recorded]

[Text] ['Abd-al-Shafi] Our declared position is clear and known, which is that we link our return to the negotiating table with Israel's commitment to repatriate the deportees in accordance with Security Council Resolution 799. The most important point here is that Israel should promise not to return to deportation under any circumstances. This is the condition for our return to the negotiating table.

[Zaydani] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, Israel refuses to commit itself not to resort to deportation in the future. The prime minister has made it clear that deportation is not a fixed Israeli policy but an exceptional measure. Doesn't this clarification satisfy you?

['Abd-al-Shafi] In fact, it is an exceptional measure in the Israeli viewpoint. Of course, this does not satisfy us. Any extraordinary right can be abused. Second, deportation is illegitimate in accordance with the law and human rights. I don't know why it is difficult for the Israeli Government to promise not to resort to deportation.

[Zaydani] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, you are almost alone in this position. Today we read that [Syrian Foreign Minister] Faruq al-Shar' rejected [head of the PLO Political Department Faruq] Qaddumi's request to block the talks. Faruq al-Shar' made it clear that there is no link between the implementation of Resolution 799 and the resumption of the bilateral talks.

['Abd-al-Shafi] In fact, our position is a principled one that is linked to legal and human rights considerations. Each party has its own viewpoint, and we respect the viewpoints of our Arab brothers, but this does not prevent us from sticking to a position that we consider principled and legal.

[Zaydani] The U.S. Administration has decided to send the invitations, as we read in this morning's newspapers, after it received verbal messages from the Palestinian side that the Palestinians will attend the ninth round.

['Abd-al-Shafi] I don't have any knowledge of this. All I know is that the Palestinians agree on their declared position which links the return to the talks with the deportee issue.

[Zaydani] Let's return to the first question, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi. Today you may receive the invitation to attend the ninth round of the bilateral talks, will you respond to this invitation?

['Abd-al-Shafi] In fact, the position now is that we will not respond to the invitation if Israel does not commit itself not to resort to deportation. But we will study the situation well. Naturally, I want to repeat that this Palestinian position does not mean that we have abandoned our basic commitment to the principle of peace. But amid the current circumstances, as I explained, we cannot go without a satisfactory solution to the deportee issue.

Palestinians Refuse To Accept Talks Invitation

NC1003135893 Paris AFP in English 1355 GMT
10 Mar 93

[Text] Jerusalem, March 10 (AFP)—The Palestinians refused to accept an invitation to resume the Middle East peace talks next month because the deportee crisis has not been solved, spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi said.

U.S. and Russian officials tried to hand over the invitation in East Jerusalem to the ninth round of bilateral talks in Washington on April 20.

"We did not accept the invitation that was delivered today, we refrained from taking it" she told reporters.

"Unfortunately we could not receive the invitation there are still outstanding issues." [sentence as received]

She was referring to the December 17 deportation of some 400 Palestinian fundamentalists by Israel. The Palestinians want a solution and a pledge from Israel that it will not deport people in future.

The ambassadors of the United States and Russia, co-sponsors of the peace negotiations, handed an invitation to Israeli deputy foreign minister Yosi Beilin earlier Wednesday [10 March].

The invitations also call for a resumption in multilateral negotiations on regional problems.

Further on Palestinian Rejection

NC1003153303 Paris AFP in English 1450 GMT
10 Mar 93

[By Barry Parker]

[Text] Jerusalem, March 10 (AFP) - The Palestinians refused on Wednesday [10 March] to accept an invitation to resume the Middle East peace talks next month because the deportee crisis has not been solved, spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi said. [passage omitted]

"We said that the only way to receive the letter of invitation is to remove all the obstacles still pending."

Ashrawi, who met [U.S. Consul Molly] Williamson [who was trying to deliver the letter] with peace delegation member Ghassan al-Khatib, called for Washington to intervene. "The U.S. has to reach out in order to help all parties to say yes (to the invitations)", she added.

Sa'ib Urayqat, another delegation member, earlier said he had received a telephone from Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman Yasser Arafat calling on the Palestinians from the occupied territories to refuse to accept the invitation.

But Williamson left the letter at Orient House and it was sent back to the consulate, Ashrawi said. [passage omitted]

U.S. Ambassador William Harrop said: "We have reason to be confident they (the Palestinians) will be there. We expect to see the Palestinian delegation in Washington."

The ninth round would be open-ended, according to the invitations which set no date to wrap up the talks.

[Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi] Beilin said: "I think there will be a breakthrough at the bilateral talks."

The invitation also called for the reconvening of multilateral talks on regional problems—arms control, water, environment, economy and refugees—between April 27 and May 25.

Syria and Jordan also received invitations to resume the talks and Lebanon was due to receive it later Wednesday.

In Damascus, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said Syria would announce at the end of March if it will attend the talks next month.

Al-Shar' received an invitation to attend the talks from the U.S. and Russian ambassadors Christopher Ross and Alexander Zotov, the official SANA news agency reported.

Al-Shar' told the envoys that that Syria will announce its decision whether to attend the next round of peace talks during a meeting of Arab foreign ministers at the end of the Moslem fasting month of Ramadan.

Faysal al-Husayni, the leading Palestinian in the occupied territories, meanwhile said in London that the Palestinians might return to the talks next month if Israel agreed publicly to stop deportations.

"The Palestinians are very eager to return to the negotiating table," he told a press conference.

But Israel's deportation of Palestinians from the territories, he said, remained "a major obstacle" to Palestinian participation.

The Palestinians would only return to the negotiations after a "public statement of principle from the Israeli side" that deportations would end.

"What we are asking is not something extreme or unexpected," he said, noting that the deportations had been condemned by the U.N. Security Council.

Al-Husayni did not, however, link Palestinian participation in the talks to repatriation of the deportees, saying that once an Israeli commitment on deportations was given, details of the return could be worked out.

Al-Husayni, along with two PLO representatives, met Tuesday with Foreign Office secretary Douglas Hogg, the first such ministerial level contact in two years.

The move was seen as an indication that Britain would offer its good offices as mediator to restart the peace talks.

'Arafat Speech Hails Intifadah Anniversary

LD0903215593 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1900 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Address to Palestinian people by Yasser Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, on the 64th month anniversary of the intifadah; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted]

I address the masses of the valiant popular intifadah, heroes of the holy stone revolution, makers of the giant

and heroic legend of resistance, bearers of the waving banner of freedom, steadfast people of the revolution everywhere in the homeland and in exile. [passage omitted]

The persistent and assiduous revolutionary struggle of our masses and the jihad which has maintained the glowing flame of the intifadah over the past five years has yet again proven their ability to abort the Israeli plot and its objectives and to rise, with their brilliant steadfastness and great sacrifices, to the level of comprehensive and [word indistinct] mass confrontation and to force the Israeli institution to face up to the difficult questions and to the plain truth which it has been trying to avoid by means of its further savage escalation against our Palestinian people.

In vain they try. In vain they try. There are people in this blessed land who—if they want to and if God wills it, and with their deep conviction and great sacrifices—will depict on the pages of history with words of light and fire the future of this region as a whole in confrontation with the new world order. [passage omitted]

In that context, brothers, was our insistence on the need for the provision of immediate and urgent international protection for our masses in the occupied homeland, and on the need to respect and implement the fourth Geneva accord, and for the whole world to know that this Israeli criminal military escalation against our people, our children, and that which we hold sacred will destroy the credibility of international law, the resolutions of international legitimacy and the peace process. Let everyone also know that there are limits to patience. Let everyone also know that there are limits to patience. [passage omitted]

O our struggling people, when U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher recently toured the region, we were hoping that it would lead to the removal of the obstacles created by Israel, which stand in the way of resuming and guaranteeing the success of the peace process. The U.S. minister heard the details of our stance which, while stressing adherence to the peace process, specified the conditions for resuming it; foremost among them being compliance with Security Council Resolution 799 and its implementation by returning our deported brothers to their homeland, guaranteed abandonment of the deportation policy in the future, respect for human rights, international protection in the occupied territories, affirmation of the essential concepts pertaining to the original references of the peace process, and the recognition of Holy Jerusalem—the first qiblah and third holy place—as the capital of our independent state.

We considered the six points studied by our delegation with Secretary Christopher and on which the American secretary sought our agreement as an introduction and a measure of the extent of commitment to respecting the resolutions of international legitimacy. The Israeli attitude, however, has proved anew its aggressive premises

which reject and challenge international legitimacy and the will of the international community.

Here we have the right to ask: Does this international legitimacy have two standards, one against our people and nation, and the other favoring Israel, or one standard for all?

We have informed our Arab brothers, and we continue to do so, of the developments that call for reaching a unified Arab attitude which defends Jerusalem in the face of the threat of judaization and exclusion, and defends Arab rights in the face of the Israeli attempt at isolating the Palestinians, by working to hold an Arab-Islamic meeting, a meeting of the Jerusalem Committee, a meeting of the Nonaligned Palestine Committee, in addition to contacts with Russia, China, Japan, Europe and Africa, to discuss developments.

Here we record with appreciation the Belgian government's step in raising the status of the PLO office in Brussels, and the British government's resumption of contacts with the PLO at ministerial level. These steps will without doubt consolidate the European role in the peace efforts in our region.

O masses of the blessed intifadah! O heroic struggling people! While we reiterated our stance regarding the resumption of the peace negotiations, stressing the need to respect international legitimacy and resolutions, we derive strength not only from the logic of our stance and its harmony with the objectives of the peace process and its terms of reference, nor from the pivotal position of our cause and the impossibility of bypassing and ignoring it. The main source of the strength of our stance, which all realize, lies in the glow of our blessed and brave intifadah, which is based on the unity of our people and its fusion with all its energies, groups, and sectors in the struggle and total confrontation. [passage omitted]

The true peace is the Palestinian peace. Let everybody know and let the whole world know that there would be no stability, no security, and no peace without the realization of the Palestinian people's rights in their homeland, Palestine, in conformity with the international legitimacy. [passage omitted]

Brothers and beloved ones, heroic cadres of our people, you students, the young, women, workers, traders, farmers, professionals, academics, and knights of our striking forces: You have once again confirmed your leading role on the frontline in defense of the honor, dignity, and rights of your Arab nation. [passage omitted]

***Arafat Interviewed on Peace Talks**

PM0903150793 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
6 Mar 93 p 6

[Interview with Palestinian President and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Khayrallah Khayrallah in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [Khayrallah] How do you view the latest developments in the context of the efforts to resolve the deportees issue, and what is your position?

[Arafat] Actually, it is a matter not just of the deportees but rather of the Palestinian question as a whole. That is what the six points discussed with Warren Christopher covered, and Jerusalem topped these points. Warren Christopher had said that (Israeli Prime Minister) Yitzhaq Rabin had fully accepted these points. They dealt not just with the deportees but with deportation as such. In them the United States acknowledged that the deportation was illegal and that future negotiations should be based on the same terms of reference as before, namely Resolutions 242 and 338, the land-for-peace principle, and the Palestinian people's legitimate rights... and Jerusalem. That is in addition to the two other commitments which Rabin accepted and then backed down from, which were a full pledge not to resort again to the policy of deportation as a collective punishment, plus compliance with Resolution 799. There can be no doubt that we now consider the issue of Jerusalem as the main issue. The deportees issue is another important issue but the disappearance of Jerusalem from the six points was the most serious thing as far as were concerned. It should be understood that if Jerusalem is important to Israel, it is also important to the Palestinians, the Arabs, the Muslims, and the Christians.

[Khayrallah] What is your condition now for the resumption of the negotiations? To be more specific, to what do you link the resumption of the negotiations?

[Arafat] We accepted the six points after learning that Rabin had accepted them. A reacceptance of the six points by Rabin would open the way to all the other facilities [tashilat]. We would then be able to make a new start.

[Khayrallah] So your return to the negotiations is linked to the six points.

[Arafat] That is what the Palestinian leadership is discussing now. Extensive meetings were held yesterday and today to answer that question. We are a collective leadership. The decisions are made by that leadership.

[Khayrallah] Do you insist on that position even if the other Arab parties decide to go to the negotiating table?

[Arafat] Even if the Arabs return to the negotiations... That is our position and we hope it will coincide with the position of our Arab brothers. We await the meeting of the cordons states. We advocate holding it as soon as possible, but our Syrian brothers are in favor of postponing it until after the 'Id al-Fitr [22-25 March] feast. We want it to be held before that. We also believe that the matter should be discussed by the Arab League Council at foreign minister level, by the Jerusalem Committee headed by His Majesty King Hassan II, and also by the Jerusalem Committee of the Nonaligned Movement, and, if necessary, in the context of the Islamic bureau [Islamic Conference Organization].

[Khayrallah] How do you view the role played by Morocco when it chaired the Security Council last month, as far as finding a solution to the deportees problem is concerned?

[Arafat] Our view and the view of the Arab delegates is that there has been no solution so far, and we insist on going back to the Security Council because we see no Israeli compliance with Resolution 799. Regrettably, two criteria of international legitimacy still totally prevail; one is against Palestine and the Arab nation, and the other is in favor of Israel. I am entitled to ask. Is that right?

[Khayrallah] There is an existing reality. It is that at present the Security Council is the United States.

[Arafat] The United Nations is controlled by the United States. We are facing a situation of a sole superpower in the world.

[Khayrallah] Therefore the question is: How do you deal with such a situation?

[Arafat] We have our own objectives and we will not abandon them. We will try to reach understanding with that superpower but, at the same time, we will not be dazzled, deterred, or intimidated. One thing is true: That sole superpower needs the Middle East and it needs stability in the region. Such stability is in its interest. I say that there can be no stability in the region without a settlement of the Palestinian question. I do not believe that the solution in the Middle East will come through new agreements like the Camp David agreement. It should be a comprehensive solution that primarily takes into account the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people in accordance with international legitimacy. We are not asking the impossible. We request implementation of the UN resolutions.

[Khayrallah] During your recent tours you have talked much about restoring Arab solidarity. Abu-Mazin [PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas] has visited Saudi Arabia. How do you view that visit and its results?

[Arafat] We view with satisfaction the mere fact that the visit has taken place. Yesterday I received two replies to two messages I had sent to Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques His Majesty King Fahd. My first message was about the suffering of our people in the occupied territories, especially the Gaza Strip, and the systematic terrorism to which the Palestinian people there are subjected as well as the collective punishment. The second message was a congratulatory one on the anniversary of his assumption of power in Saudi Arabia. We look forward to further strengthening of relations between us and the brothers in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf. We aspire to Arab solidarity. I believe that it is time to overcome the Gulf war pain and wounds. There were wars between France and Germany but they have been able to establish some kind of European unity and there is talk of a joint Franco-German military unit. We

are facing fateful challenges—to be or not to be one Arab nation. We will continue to work for that. We must focus on the dangers threatening the Gulf region, which, as you know, has the largest oil reserves in the world.

[Khayrallah] How do you view Iran's current role?

[Arafat] Regrettably, Iran is encouraging the extremist forces not only in the Palestinian arena but also in the entire region, and giving them arms, funds, training, and political support. We had fought for decisionmaking freedom, for independent Palestinian decisionmaking. We have not allowed Arab brothers to interfere in our independent Palestinian decisionmaking and we will not allow Persians to interfere in our internal affairs. I do not believe that this is only a Palestinian position. It is an Arab position. I am sorry to say that this is not the first time that Iran has played a negative role at the Palestinian level. It has played that role from the time of the first Gulf war to this day. Also, let us not forget that I had long discussions on that with [Iranian] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, once in Dakar and twice in Djakarta. I told him: I welcome you as a friend, but we do not accept your interference in our Arab or Palestinian affairs. It should be understood that any threat to any Arab Gulf state is a threat to Palestine. Our position is clear, and that is the position we declared in connection with the Abu Musa and the Tunb al-Kubra and Tunb al-Sughra islands. We stand with our Arab nation.

[Khayrallah] Could you tell us something about your recent visit to Iraq?

[Arafat] All I can say is that it was very much a part of our endeavor to mend the Arab home, which we care about. As I said, we are facing a new world order. Either we survive or we do not.

[Khayrallah] Can we say frankly that Abu-Mazin's visit to Saudi Arabia was made on your own initiative?

[Arafat] It was by decision. Nothing happens impulsively in the Palestinian arena. Everything happens by decision.

[Khayrallah] And are you satisfied with what has happened so far?

[Arafat] Without any doubt. In fact, I look forward to further developments in relations. Palestine deserves much from our Saudi brothers. King 'Abd-al-'Aziz once said that Palestine was the apple of his eye. King Fayzal took famous stands and made famous declarations about Palestine, and so did King Fahd. Have we forgotten King Fahd's initiative when he was crown prince, which was upheld by the Fez summit conference? To this day, it is the initiative of all the Arabs.

[Khayrallah] What do you wish to say to the new U.S. Administration?

[Arafat] I say that when there is talk about human rights, human rights in Palestine should be remembered, and when there is talk about the children of the world, the

children of the Holy Land should be remembered. Like all other peoples, the Palestinian people have a right to freedom, security, and independence on their own free land.

[Khayrallah] You have stayed away from Lebanon for a long time. How do you view Lebanon now?

[Arafat] May God help Lebanon, because there are still some attempts to fragment and incapacitate Lebanon. I said before the outbreak of events in Lebanon, as far back as 1974, that there was a plot against the Lebanese banking sector and that there was a premeditated decision to stop Lebanon being the banking center of the Arabs. That was when oil prices were high. We now have the same story. There are those who do not want Lebanon to regain its good health, particularly if peace agreements are reached. There are those who want Israel to be that banking center. Through openness, they want us to pay double the political and economic price. I draw attention to that and I say: God help Lebanon.

[Khayrallah] Do you not believe that the situation has relatively improved in Lebanon?

[Arafat] Ostensibly that is true, but I take a strategic not a local view.

[Khayrallah] What about resettlement of the Palestinians in Lebanon?

[Arafat] That is nonsense. We have been offered resettlement in Sinai but we rejected that, and I have been offered resettlement in southern Lebanon but I rejected that, and I was offered resettlement in Amman. We have one homeland, which is Palestine. Lebanon is a passageway to that homeland and it will continue to be only a passageway, just like Egypt, Syria, and Jordan. Holy Jerusalem is the capital of that homeland. To us the whole world is not worth one stone of Jerusalem, the first qiblah, the third holy mosque, the place from which Muhammad, may God's blessings and peace be upon him, ascended to heaven, and the cradle of Christ, peace be upon him.

Let me finally complete what I said about the issue of Iraq. I discussed an important matter with President Saddam. You know that Iraq is now the only country not participating in the peace negotiations, even though it is a cornerstone in the Arab region. He told me: With God's blessings, Abu-'Ammar [Arafat], what is acceptable to the Palestinian leadership is acceptable to me. He repeated the same thing in the press and in a television interview.

[Khayrallah] One final question about Tunisia. What role is Tunisia playing as far as the Palestinian question is concerned?

[Arafat] While you were here with me I received a message from President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. I had an important meeting with him in the morning. We discussed everything which occurred during Secretary Warren Christopher's tour and developments so far. We

discussed our views of the situation and expected developments. Then there was a communication between the Tunisian foreign minister (Habib Ben Yahya) and Edward Djerejian, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle Eastern affairs. I have in front of me a message from the U.S. Administration which I just received through the Tunisian brothers.

[Khayrallah] Could you tell us what it says?

[Arafat] No, no, I cannot.

Christopher Said To Seek Jordan's Help on Palestinians

PM0903160393 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Mar 93 p 4

[Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi report: "Christopher Makes Offer to Jordan in Return for Putting Pressure on Palestinians To Participate in the Negotiations"]

[Text] Palestinian sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher told senior Jordanian officials at his meeting with them in Amman during his recent Middle East tour that the U.S. Administration wishes to turn over a new leaf with Jordan in return for a more active role by the Jordanian Government in resuming the peace negotiations, specifically in exerting the necessary pressures on the Palestinians to get them to participate in this process.

The sources said that Christopher defined for Jordanian officials the features of the new start between Washington and Amman in four points. They are:

1. U.S. aid to Jordan: In this context Christopher pointed out to the Jordanians that there is a difficulty in approving aid to Jordan because of the opposition in Congress. And that this administration will work to provide the alternative via Europe and Japan.
2. Jordanian debts: The U.S. Administration will work to help Jordan in rescheduling its debts and ease the burdens of these debts in appreciation of the Jordanian position in the bilateral negotiations with Israel and the steps which have been achieved so far.
3. Restrictions on shipping traffic: The United States will work to reduce the restrictions imposed on shipping traffic and commercial ships heading for the Gulf of Aqaba.
4. Volume of trade exchange with Iraq: The U.S. Administration will not oppose to the volume of trade exchange between Jordan and Iraq, provided that the exchange remain within the framework of the two local markets, so that there will be no breach of the economic embargo resolution imposed on Iraq, pending the results of the current dialogue between Washington and Baghdad. If the two sides reach an agreement, these restrictions on Jordan will be lifted.

In return for this Christopher requested the Jordanian Government to resume the dialogue with Israel without prior conditions, and to exert sufficient pressures on the Palestinian team so that they can display more flexibility regarding the deportees question. And the negotiations would be resumed on the basis of the U.S. proposals concerning this issue and which stipulate the deportees' return in stages. Christopher also requested that the circle of pressure be extended to include demanding the Palestinians accept the plan proposed by Israel for the transitional phase arrangements.

According to the sources, Jordan promised to cooperate with the United States for the sake of making the negotiations a success. But Jordanian officials told Christopher that it would be difficult for Jordan to participate in the next round of negotiations if that Palestinians did not participate.

U.S. Media 'Storm' Against Arabs, Muslims Criticized

TA0903204293 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 8 Mar 93 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Hostile and Unfair Attacks"]

[Text] The explosion at New York's World Trade Center several days ago has turned into a sudden and alarming tool for attacking Arab and Islamic communities throughout the United States. This campaign has escalated into overt hostility toward Arabs and Muslims everywhere. Despite the fact that two days ago in the White House—in front of mayors of 40 major U.S. cities—U.S. President Bill Clinton cautioned against drawing hasty and premature conclusions, a hostile media "storm" is trying to pinpoint suspicion toward the Arab-Israeli party [as published] regardless of what the U.S. judiciary might determine about this case.

Those who are seeking to fish in this problem, as if it were muddy waters, are planning to further their steps to distort U.S. relations with Arab and Islamic parties. They are trying to distort relations in the aftermath of the recent Gulf war when there is a desire to resume the bilateral negotiations over a settlement in the region under a U.S. sponsorship. This sponsorship includes full partnership in the negotiations, as Secretary Warren Christopher said during his visit to the region.

Our confidence in U.S. justice to apprehend the perpetrators of this horrible event and reveal their identities, as well as of any party that might be behind them, is clear and firm.

We also would like the U.S. Administration to determine its fair stand in this context and act seriously to stop the hostile political and unfair media attacks. Such action might enhance and consolidate U.S.-Arab-Israeli relations, in contrast to what "those who fish in muddy waters" and those who are opposed to peace, justice, and stability in the region and the entire world are planning.

Hamas Reportedly Demanding To Join PLO Bodies

JN1003090393 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 10 Mar pp 1, 28

[By Tawfiq 'Abid]

[Excerpts] A senior Palestinian source has disclosed that the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has made several demands to join the PLO institutions.

The source told AL-DUSTUR: During the meetings held in Tunis, Khartoum, and Amman, the representatives of Hamas have demanded an active participation and a distinguished weight in the PLO Executive Committee. They have also demanded reducing the number of the members of the Palestine National Council [PNC] from 452 to 200 members. [passage omitted]

The source, who attended the Amman meeting that was concluded two days ago, said that the representatives of Hamas asked for their share of the financial quota [preceding word in English] paid by the Palestine National Fund, like other factions and organizations which receive monthly sums from the fund.

The source added: Fatah negotiators have replied that it is difficult to change the PNC membership before the outcome of the negotiations with Israel becomes clear. But the Central Council members can be increased to 98 and Hamas members can join it and then can take part in its successive sessions as original members. [passage omitted]

Answering a question, the source said that concerted efforts are being made to "Palestinize" Hamas and sever its ties with the Muslim Brotherhood, noting that its conditions are impossible. For, how can elections be conducted now for the Palestinian people in the places where they exist? [passage omitted]

In another development, Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for Hamas, denied any connection between the Hamas Movement and the statement circulated in the occupied Arab territories a few days ago criticizing the Palestinian leadership. He said those who circulated the statement are trying to sow discord between Hamas and Fatah, calling for alertness to hostile methods which aim at spreading confusion.

Hamas Gives Name of Contacted Spanish Diplomat

JN0903192993 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has revealed the identity of the Spanish diplomat who met with Hamas representatives in Khartoum last month. The Spanish Foreign Ministry denied such a meeting ever took place.

In a statement to our radio, Hamas representative in Jordan Muhammad Nazzal stressed that the meeting, which took place in the Hamas office in Khartoum on 21 February, included Agustin Cassinello, political adviser at the Spanish Embassy in Egypt, and a Hamas delegation led by Munir Sa'id, Hamas' representative in Khartoum. Nazzal noted that the Spanish diplomat was deputized by the Spanish Foreign Ministry to travel to Sudan to meet the Hamas delegation.

Hamas held a series of meetings with a U.S. diplomat in Amman; with the ambassadors of Germany, Britain, and Italy to Jordan; and with the ambassador of the PRC in Khartoum to show that Hamas is not a terrorist organization, Nazzal said.

Washington has recently decided to end its contacts with Hamas and hinted that it will put this movement on the list of terrorist organizations it will issue in April.

Fatah Claims Responsibility for Israeli Death

LD0903200493 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] A Palestinian source says that the Fatah movement claimed responsibility yesterday for the killing of an Israeli settler in the settlements of Gan Or in the Gaza Strip. A banner bearing the signatures of Fatah Eagles, was raised at Khan Yunis Grand Mosque saying: We killed the settler this morning.

Mainstream Fatah Arrests FRC 'Sabotage Network'

NC0903163893 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 4 Mar 93 p 4

[Text] Sultan Abu-al-'Aynayn, a military official for Fatah-the Central Council in Tyre, disclosed today that his movement arrested a sabotage network in the area whose members belong to Fatah-the Revolutionary Council [FRC].

At a news conference in al-Rashidiyah Camp yesterday [3 March], he announced that a few days ago his movement released two FRC members who were handed over to the leader of al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [Islamic group] Dr. 'Ali 'Ammar.

PLO Officials, UK's Hogg Hold Talks in London

WA1003160693

For reportage on the talks in London between PLO officials Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Advisory Committee of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks; Hayil al-Fahum, head of the PLO's European Affairs Section; and 'Afif Safiyah, director of the PLO office in Britain, and UK Foreign Office Minister Douglas Hogg, see the United Kingdom section of the 10 March West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

South Asian Regional Affairs**SAARC Summit Scheduled in Dhaka 10-11 April**

*BK0903101893 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English
0928 GMT 9 Mar 93*

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Mar 9 (LANKAPUVATH)—The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Colombo today confirmed that the seventh SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit will be held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on April 10 and 11.

A press release issued by the Ministry states President Ranasinghe Premadasa, chairman of the sixth SAARC Summit, has had consultations with Begum Khaleda Zia, prime minister of Bangladesh, and other heads of state or government of SAARC regarding dates for the seventh SAARC Summit in Dhaka. All the seven heads of state or government of the SAARC countries have agreed to convene the seventh SAARC Summit in Dhaka on the 10th and 11th of April.

The summit will be preceded by a two-day meeting of senior officials and a one-day meeting of foreign ministers.

Algeria

Six Fundamentalists Shot Dead Near Sidi bel Abbes

LD0903205093 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Excerpts] Algeria is stepping up its combing operations in Islamic circles. Six persons have been shot dead by special army units in the forest of Tessala near Sidi bel Abbes in the west of the country. [passage omitted]

Since the beginning of the year, about 10 civilians have been killed.

Terrorist Group's Trial Postponed; Further Incidents

LD0903184493 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] The Algiers Special Judicial Council adjourned today the hearing on the terrorist group Amir Noah until next Saturday's session. The postponement of this trial for the third time came after the lawyers withdrew from the defense of the defendants. The Special Judicial Council commissioned the dean of the Bar Association for Algiers region to appoint volunteer lawyers to defend the defendants and place the trial documents at their disposal.

Meanwhile, nine people were presented to stand trial yesterday in the city of Oran after being accused of forming a terrorist group and possessing unlicensed arms, according to a source in the National Gendarmerie. The source, according to APS, pointed out that these elements are the last remaining ones in the terrorist group known as Nil Haouari, who was arrested and stood trial about six months ago.

A civilian was killed yesterday in Bourouba quarter in the capital after two unidentified people opened fire on him. A security source in the capital's security governorate pointed out that the victim Lormani Abdelmajid, a butcher and brother of a policeman, was shot in the back by two people, one of whom approached his shop to buy a kilogram of meat. When he began to prepare the order, the two terrorists opened fire on him and fled, added a source in Algiers' security governorate.

In the province of Blida, a taxi driver was seriously wounded and taken to hospital yesterday after he was shot at by three people he transported to Douar Labaziz in Bougera. The three individuals also seized the car.

HCE Statement on Development of Democracy

LD0803105293 Algiers APS in English 1003 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Algiers, March 8 (APS)—The form, the content and the perspectives of discussions the political leadership intends to start with "personalities and associations,

political parties and social forces", constitutes the main concern of animators of the Algerian political and social life, since the time the President of the Higher State Committee (HCE), Ali Kafi, announced during his speech on January 14 the will of the political leadership to relaunch dialogue.

On the eve of the opening of this dialogue, the Higher State Committee has defined the constant points around which the discussions will start so as to mark the way for a "true democracy which is centered around a republican, modern and stable state".

These principles identified by the HCE are also centered around "the interest of the national cause, the democratic option and the respect of the republican spirit". They will serve as a basis for the setting up of foundations that will enable the emergence of a developed Algerian society based on "political pluralism which guarantees the freedom of opinion and expression while defending human rights" and "assuring the principles of alternance of power within a nation open on the world".

In addition to the main axes on which will be centered dialogue, the latter will probably be open to all those who make of the national cause their main motivation, provided it will be based on the democratic option and the defence of republican laws.

While projecting the opening of dialogue, the HCE also reaffirmed its intransigent position vis-a-vis terrorism, while indicating the exclusion of the plotters of this plague.

In its implacable struggle against terrorism, the HCE brought a significant stand by underlining that those who will be "associated to it will be reduced to impotence".

On the basis of these indications which constitute the back drop to the beginning of this dialogue, observers consider that discussions, once started could lead to the commitment of all to contribute in the solution of multiform problems Algeria is facing. These very observers consider that some parties which have not yet expressed themselves in all responsibility, in front of the project of society as it was defined by the HCE, will certainly clarify their position on this occasion.

However, the outlines of these discussions have not yet been officially defined. According to some echo's reported by the Algerian press, these would concern the institution of a Council of the Republic, the enlargement of National Consultative Council and the project of revision of some aspects of the constitution.

If the decor seems to exist, some phrases pronounced recently by the president of the Higher State Committee and the head of government have raised a strong reaction from the part of some parties which focussed their attention on the content of these statements while questioning their possible participation in the dialogue. For the observers, the statements of the two officials have not yet, politically, revealed their true significance and it

is expected that the opening of dialogue sheds since the very beginning, light on the true intentions of all and during its carrying out, answers to all these questionings.

Prison Sentences Handed Out in External Bank Fraud Case

*LD0603183293 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
1700 GMT 6 Mar 93*

[Text] After a trial which lasted three weeks, the criminal court in Algiers today passed sentences in the case of the Algerian External Bank. More details from Ahmed Khider:

[Khider] The jail sentences ranged between 20 years and 6 years as follows:

Mouhouche Rachid: 20 years imprisonment.

Ihadadene: 20 years imprisonment.

Reda Bouchnaki: 10 years imprisonment.

Noumani Ounes, Nedjari Mohamed, Soummar Ahmed, Belala Hocine, Selami Kamel and Ougazi Mohamed: 8 years imprisonment.

Heidar Ferhat: 6 years imprisonment.

Mr Zine, the lawyer representing the defendant Ihadadene, described the sentence passed against his client as harsh and said that he would appeal in the next eight days in accordance with the law. Ihadadene's sentence was not reduced like it was for the others in view of previous sentences passed against him. It is worth mentioning that Ihadadene was chairman of a unit in charge of 14 bank branches, including the branches of El Harache and Les Pins Maritimes [Algiers suburbs] from where money was embezzled in 1988. The money embezzled was estimated then at 24 billion centimes [24 million Algerian dinars]. The affair became known from then on as the 24 milliard affair.

The lawyers for the plaintiff, namely the Algerian External Bank, demanded damages that estimated at over 19 billion centimes, in addition to a confiscation of the defendants' property and its transfer to the bank. The court is expected to pass judgement on this aspect of the trial later today. Furthermore, regarding the criminal aspect of the trial, all the defendants benefited from mitigating circumstances and were tried in accordance with Article 119 of the Penal Code. It is worth indicating that one of the main charges levelled at the defendants is the embezzlement of public funds and their use for personal purposes.

In this trial which lasted over three weeks, there was no main defendant contrary to reports that Mouhouche had been designated as the main defendant. Moreover, Yazid Tahar, chairman of the bank's branch at Les Pins Maritimes, who was sentenced to death in the first trial in 1991 and who is now on the run, has also been thought of as the main defendant.

In his defense speech, the lawyer representing Rachid Mouhouche, who was sentenced to death in 1991, stressed one basic point, namely that his client was not a

member of staff to be sentenced in accordance with the laws applied to staff. His defense speech did influence the outcome of the session.

Government Spokesman on Aspects of Economic Program

*LD0203211793 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
1700 GMT 2 Mar 93*

[Excerpts] The government is going ahead with implementing its program focusing on preserving jobs, ensuring housing, providing new posts, and defending citizens' purchasing power. This was confirmed by Mr. Ait Chaalal, the official government spokesman. On the expected dialogue between the Higher State Council [HSC] and the parties and political and social forces, he clarified that its method and contents fall under the jurisdiction of the HSC. However, Mr. Ait Chaalal stressed that nothing has changed in the determination of the authority to regain the dignity of the state, eradicate terrorism, and restore social peace. Fethi Saidi reports:

[Saidi] Concerning the social focus in the government's program, Mr. Ait Chaalal was responding to a question on the criticisms directed by the secretary general of the General Union of Algerian Workers to the government accusing it of not complying with the agreement made with the previous government. The government spokesman recalled here the direct and indirect support from which the working classes benefit. In preserving employment, the budget of 1993 allocated 83 billion dinars to streamline the institutions which were intended to continue operating to preserve thousands of jobs. The solution was also found by settling the back pay of local economic institutions, which allowed for the preservation of 120,000 jobs.

On providing new jobs, Mr. Ait Chaalal reminded them of the decision to resume building social housing by allocating almost 9 billion dinars for the sector, in addition to 18 billion for the irrigation sector and 25 billion for infrastructure; these latter two items show respective increases of 60 percent and 40 percent compared with last year. There is also another 8 billion for the agricultural sector. [passage omitted]

Mr. Ait Chaalal stressed that the government did not implement previous commitments made with the IMF, and pointed out in this context that if the dinar had been devalued by 50 percent, inflation would have soared to a three-figure record and 500,000 jobs would have been lost. These measures, however, do not rule out austerity. [passage omitted]

Mr. Ait Chaalal expressed surprise at the campaign launched by some newspapers and the ambiguity which they try to confer on the position of the authorities toward Islamic principles. He recalled that talk on Islamic principles is not a new issue for us, and building the state on these principles was valid since the issuing of the 1 November 1954 declaration.

Algiers Police Crack Down on Price Gouging, Speculation

*LD0503164993 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
1600 GMT 5 Mar 93*

[Text] A statement released by the security services of Algiers province says that about 200 people were summoned today to have their weekly trading permit checked at Souk El Harrache by the security services of Algiers province within the framework of the fight against parasitical activities, that is, the illegal raising of prices and speculation. The same statement explained that among those 200 people summoned there are 15 persons who will be referred to justice for numerous violations.

Government White Paper on Controlling Inflationary Spiral

*LD0703165293 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
0700 GMT 7 Mar 93*

[Text] Anti-inflation measures were the main points in a government document published last night by the head of the government Mr. Belaid Abdessalem. The document, which has the serial number of 130 and is dated 6 March, expresses the belief that reducing inflation was the government's main objective. The following are the main points in the proposal, read by Fatima Zouhra.

[Zouhra] The document points out that the government's program of action includes a strategy which primarily aims to bring about an [economic] revival in the country through the stimulation of the economy by 1995 or 1996. The document also indicates that the government refuses to devalue the dinar, as stipulated by the International Monetary Fund, and prefers intervention in economic and social programs. The document, thus, maintains that the state's actions for 1993, which were epitomised in the budget and the national program of action to revive the economy, were based upon the need to control the inflationary spiral, a matter which warrants firm price controls. The document reiterates that such a goal must be sought with firmness by the government and economic and social administrator who ought to aim for it at all levels. The head of the government expressed, according to the document, that out of his belief that production plants are the place where wealth is principally created and where it should be redistributed a national agreement ought to be reached by parties concerned with economic management, partners, and trade unions to support his initiative. The document states in this respect, however, that the government, which has decided to control wage rises in the public sector, has based its assumption that the country's economic balance will be restored through wage control in public sector companies, regardless of their status, and private sector companies. In the same vein, the document also expresses the stance that such a goal, without which anti-inflationary measures would have been meaningless, must be borne by all social partners, wage

earners in particular who would otherwise be the principal victims if inflation is not controlled. Meantime, however, the document strongly urges companies, managers, and trade union representatives to postpone wage negotiations and restrict them within the framework of a balanced budget by the government. The document points out the need to always remember that any future policy will be strictly enforced; all managers must adhere to it. They would be held accountable for any deviation otherwise, it added. [passage omitted]

Budget Official Warning on Money Supply

*LD0903101693 Algiers APS in Arabic 0825 GMT
9 Mar 93*

[Excerpts] Algiers, 9 Mar (APS)—The Algerian Association for Promoting Market Economy yesterday expressed its preoccupation over the volume of the budget deficit which could lead to an exacerbation of inflation, unemployment, and overall recession. [passage omitted].

In an interview with 'LE QUOTIDIEN' last Saturday, Ali Brahiti, minister delegate for the budget, ruled out any resort to issuing additional banknotes in the short term, but did not exclude this process if workers continue to get their wages in return for no productive work. [passage omitted]

Abdessalam Receives Delegation From Agricultural Union

*LD1003112793 Algiers APS in English 1056 GMT
10 Mar 93*

[Text] Algiers, March 10 (APS)—The head of government, Belaid Abdessalam, received Tuesday here a delegation of the National Union of Peasants and Agricultural Workers (UNPTA), led by its secretary general, Naimi Abdelkader, indicated a communique of the presidency of the government which pointed out that "during the meeting, the members of the National Secretariat of the UNPTA exposed the problems faced by the agricultural workers".

In this context, the communique pointed out, they expressed their satisfaction about the will of the government to take in charge with determination the problems of the agricultural sector.

They also declared they are satisfied with the present policy of the government in its financial relations with foreign partners.

During the audience, the head of government expressed the will of the government to support the agricultural sector affirming that some problems posed will be solved at the level of the Ministry of Agriculture whereas others will be the subject of a consultation.

Belaid Abdessalam further recalled the vital necessity for this sector to organize itself, as its contribution in the

realization of the objective of the government, mainly food independence, is decisive, the communique added.

Egypt

Al-Asad, Peres Reportedly To Visit Cairo

JN0903180493 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will visit Cairo in the coming days to hold talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on the future of the peace process before the Egyptian president meets U.S. President Bill Clinton in April. Well-informed diplomatic sources told our radio that an imminent meeting will take place prior to the Egyptian-Syrian summit between the two countries' foreign ministers to discuss final Arab conditions for resuming the peace talks. The sources added that these conditions will be communicated to the United States and Russia through a joint memorandum from the two countries or through a joint memorandum from the five Arab parties involved in the peace process, if the other parties agree on drafting such a memorandum.

Diplomatic sources noted that the joint memorandum, which was discussed by the foreign ministers of both countries during a telephone conversation, will underscore the Arab position on the deportee issue and will demand that Israel announce its commitment to Security Council Resolution 799 and stop its expulsion policy in the future. In addition, the memorandum will underscore additional steps that are necessary for Arab participation in the next round of talks. These steps are represented by achieving real progress in the peace talks and assessing the proposed American points as a basis for the upcoming talks.

Radio Monte Carlo has also learned that Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will visit Cairo in the coming days, bringing Israel's response to several Egyptian proposals related to the resumption of peace talks.

PLO's Mahmud 'Abbas Arrives in Cairo

NC0903201593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2001 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 9 Mar (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas "Abu-Mazin" arrived in Cairo from Tunis tonight. Palestinian ambassador to Egypt Sa'id Kamal received him at the airport.

PLO's Sha'th Urges Revival of Six-Point Plan

NC0903221993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2136 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 9 Mar (MENA)—Palestinian president Yasser 'Arafat's political adviser, Dr. Nabil Sha'th,

arrived in Cairo tonight and announced that PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas "Abu-Mazin," who arrived in Cairo earlier today, is carrying a message to President Hosni Mubarak from president 'Arafat on the deportee issue and the situation in the occupied Gaza Strip.

Sha'th added that the PLO Executive Committee and the PLO's expanded central command met recently and discussed the position the Palestinians will adopt on the Palestinian deportee issue, the situation in Gaza, and the prospects of rejoining to the peace negotiations. They also discussed recent statements by Israeli officials about a possible unexpected withdrawal from the occupied Gaza Strip and the need to prepare a study about such a withdrawal, which would be considered a result of the citizens' continuous struggle against the occupation.

Sha'th called on the United States to revive and implement the six-point plan agreed upon during U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's recent Middle East tour. He noted that the Palestinians were informed at the time that Israel had accepted the plan, but Israel later retracted its approval. Sha'th remarked that this plan secures the deportees' return, bars future deportations, and renews commitment to the peace negotiations' points of reference and the Jerusalem issue.

Sha'th added that Egypt is making a major effort to resolve the deportee crisis and promote the peace process. He said Egyptian views on the deportees and the need to raise the Jerusalem issue at the negotiating table are harmonious with Palestinian views.

Violence Erupts in Imbabah, Aswan; 20 Killed

NC1003141293 Paris AFP in English 1311 GMT 10 Mar 93

[By Mona Salim]

[Text] Cairo, March 10 (AFP)—Witnesses claimed Wednesday [10 March] that police had "massacred" worshippers at a mosque in southern Egypt as clashes between the security forces and Muslim fundamentalists left a total of 14 people dead.

Seven people died in two separate clashes when police swept through the teeming Cairo district of Imbabah at dawn on Wednesday looking for Muslim extremists, investigators said.

The security forces also killed seven fundamentalists at a mosque in the southern town of Aswan late Tuesday, with witnesses claiming they had opened fire indiscriminately.

The violence escalated as the security forces stepped up their campaign to crush a fundamentalist campaign led by the extremist al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah group [The Islamic Group] which has left more than 90 people dead in the past year and threatens to wreck the vital tourist industry.

The group wants to overthrow the government and install an Islamic regime.

Police in Aswan, a major tourist destination 900 kilometres (540 miles) south of Cairo, said fundamentalists holed up in the town's Al-Rahmah mosque opened fire late Tuesday as police arrived to arrest them over an attack on a Coptic church that left one guard dead and another wounded.

Seven fundamentalists were killed and 15 wounded in the shootout, police said. A policeman was also hurt.

Witnesses who requested anonymity told AFP that police surrounded the building during evening prayers and one officer who approached the building was attacked by look-outs, who hit him with bicycle chains.

Police retaliated by lobbing teargas into the mosque, and then opened fire as the people inside tried to get out.

"It was a real massacre" one witness said.

Meanwhile in Cairo, police battled fundamentalists during dawn raids Wednesday aimed at tracking down Muslim extremists.

Two policemen, two fundamentalists, a woman and child were killed in the Tura'at al-Sawahil area inside the working class neighbourhood of Imbabah, a fundamentalist stronghold.

A police commander was killed in a separate clash in Warraq, another Imbabah district.

The security forces arrested 65 fundamentalists in sweeps through the city's Imbabah, Bulaq al-Dakrur, and Zawiyat al-Mamra' neighborhoods as well as al-Qalyubiyah, 20 kilometers (12 miles) north of here.

Attacks by fundamentalists on tourists have caused a drop of some 40 percent in the number of holidaymakers coming to Egypt, a serious blow to a key foreign currency earner worth three billion dollars a year.

The scene of Tuesday's clash, Aswan, is a major attraction because of its dam and nearby temples.

Apart from a few minor incidents, it has been spared the fundamentalist violence which has rocked other regions of southern Egypt for the past year.

The clashes come in the middle of Ramadan, the Muslim holy month when there is usually a truce in conflicts.

The gunbattles also coincided with the opening of the trial at a Cairo military court on Tuesday of 49 fundamentalists accused of attacking foreign holidaymakers, including the murder of a British woman in October, and plotting to overthrow the government.

The suspects, aged between 20 and 25, face possible death sentences for their alleged roles in eight attacks on tour buses and Nile cruise ships in southern Egypt.

[Paris AFP in English at 1343 GMT on 10 March adds the following: "The death toll in an upsurge in clashes between security forces and Muslim fundamentalists in Cairo and southern Egypt has risen to 20, police said Wednesday."]

Western 'Discrimination' Against Islam Regretted
NC1003090093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0713 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Mar (MENA)—AL-AHRAM warns Western media not to mix terrorists and Islamists. The paper notes clear changes in Western media handling of the news, focusing on Islam as the religion of the person accused of perpetrating the explosion in the World Trade Center in New York. This is part of a campaign that has been going on since communism collapsed, a campaign to attribute any unlawful act to Islam and to regard it as the number one enemy of the new world order.

In its editorial today, the paper says that Western media, even Western governments, describe the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina as Muslims, although some of the people belong to other religions. The Serbs who are fighting them and committing the ugliest crimes are described as Serbs, not by their religion.

The paper says: Religion is not a nationality that identifies people. Islam is not a fault for which a person should be punished. The biggest threat to human rights and the new world order is discrimination based on religion, race, or color.

Concluding its editorial, the paper says that criminals are criminals irrespective of their citizenship, creed, or color. Terrorists must be described only as terrorists and they must be treated on this basis.

Statement To Be Made on Officials' Dismissal
NC1003112393 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1028 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Mar (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—Under the headline "An Urgent Government Statement in the People's Assembly on the Dismissal of Three Senior Officials," the opposition newspaper AL-WAFD, organ of the New Wafd Party, this morning writes: The government and the People's Assembly are holding intensive consultations on an urgent government statement on the dismissal of Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Abu-Ghazalah, assistant to the president; Major General Hilmi al-Fiqi, director of public security; and Major General Fadi al-Habshi, head of criminal investigation at the Interior Ministry. The statement will be delivered at next week's first session. The consultations between the government and the People's Assembly aim to drop a question that Deputy Kamal Khalid submitted to the prime minister.

The question deals with the spread of corruption, bribery, and the exploitation of positions by senior officials. The question accuses the government of lacking

discipline and serious control over senior officials. The deputy asked that confidence be withdrawn from the government and said that senior officials violate the provisions of the Constitution. He also accused them of violating Article 12 of the Constitution, which guarantees protection of the moral and spiritual values of the Egyptian people.

Deputy Kamal Khalid referred to reports that three state officials committed moral and security crimes punishable by law and requiring investigation. The People's Assembly bureau rejected a question by the same deputy to the prime minister, the interior minister, and the justice minister on the background to the dismissal of three senior state officials.

Education Minister Rescinds Students' Dismissal

NC0803173193 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
5 Mar 93 p 1

[Text] Education Minister Dr. Husayn Baha'-al-Din has rescinded his decision to dismiss four female students from the Qalyub Secondary School, deciding instead to suspend them for two weeks. He said he changed his decision out of concern for the girls' future. This information was given to AL-AKHBAR by al-Qaylubiyyah Governor Dr. 'Adil al-Tuhami.

Minister Discusses Privatization Priorities

NC0903091893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1732 GM
T 8 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 8 Mar (MENA)—Manpower and Training Minister 'Asim 'Abd-al-Haq Salih has said that the first priorities for the new management of public sector companies are to upgrade production and create new jobs.

In a statement today, the minister said that the rights and interests of employees in these companies, including those to be privatized, will not be harmed, because they are protected by law, according to which the new owner must meet every one of its predecessor's obligations to employees. The minister said it is inconceivable for the government to sell public sector assets, which are the property of the people, for less than their value. There is no plan to sell the assets of companies to be privatized to foreigners, he added, noting that President Mubarak personally pointed out that preference will be given to Egyptians, then Arabs.

The minister noted that any group of trade unions or laborers may buy shares in public sector companies, adding that the assets of the companies to be privatized are assessed in agreement between the government and the holding companies. The Central Auditing Agency, a national auditing house and impartial party, will be responsible for determining the final price, he added. The minister pointed out that the companies to be privatized are those that make a profit, so as to attract investors.

The minister noted that a debate is under way over which party will get privatization revenue. Some say the proceeds should go to the holding companies to consolidate their other affiliated companies, others say the revenue should go to the government to spend on the people, while a third group says the proceeds should go to a special fund to back the business sector. The minister said the discussion remains open and when the government decides, its decision will be presented to the leaders of the Egyptian Workers Federation during meetings to be attended by the ministers concerned.

Commander Discusses Modernization of Naval Forces

NC0903142093 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic
6 Mar 93 p 1

[Report by Jamal Kamil]

[Text] Vice Admiral Ahmad Fadil, commander of the Egyptian Naval Forces, has stated that Egypt will not allow any country to threaten the maritime routes within the Egyptian navy's range of operation.

In an exclusive interview with AL-JUMHURIYAH, Vice Adm. Fadil explained that the Egyptian Naval Forces had devised a plan to build missile craft at the Egyptian shipbuilding yard in conjunction with some foreign firms. He said that this year, the Egyptian navy will receive its first batch of U.S. minehunters for which a contract was concluded recently. They are among the most advanced minehunters, equipped with detection and detonation devices. They will become operational in the middle of next year, when Egyptian crews will have been trained on them, he added.

He said the second stage of the plan to modernize submarines in the Egyptian navy's service has been completed. Under the plan, these submarines will be supplied with Harpoon missiles. He said that within a year, we will have the first fully modernized submarine in Egypt that is on a par with the world's modern submarines. He said the Egyptian navy is holding joint exercises with the United States, Britain, France, and Italy and is ready to stage similar exercises with any Arab country.

'Effective' Antitank Missile Developed

NC0703065493 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio
Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 7 Mar 93

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-AKHBAR reports in today's issue that experts from the Arab Industrialization Authority have developed an Egyptian antitank missile called Cobra. The group increased the missile's ability to penetrate armor from 50 cm to more than 60 cm. The first prototype has been manufactured and tests show that it is highly

effective. The missile is a modified version of the eastern-made [Soviet] BJ missile and is fired from the shoulder-held RBJ launcher, with which the infantry is equipped.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Oil, Economic Experts

LD0903153293 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 8 Mar 93

["First part" of meeting between Libyan leader Mu'amar al-Qadhdhafi and oil and economic officials; officials identified where possible; on 8 March, place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Unidentified announcer] In the framework of his instigatory and guiding role in exploiting all the inner resources and deploying them in a serious revolutionary, scientific, and strategic action to build a future that relies on a strong economy that would exploit all these resources, the brother leader of the revolution had a meeting with experts in economics and oil in the Great Jamahiriyyah, whom he had entrusted with the preparation of scientific studies and technical plans that are required in this context during a meeting with them on 9 September 1992.

We shall now present the first part of the brother leader of the revolution's meeting with the economic and oil experts.

[Official, addressing al-Qadhdhafi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. We meet today to complete the talk with a team of experts in the fields of oil and economics which you initiated last September, to be precise on 9 September 1992, on oil and the future of life and developments in this part of the Arab homeland. You charged the team to think and undertake the necessary studies in an attempt to reach scientific answers to a host of questions and concerns which were discussed at that meeting.

The focus was on a number of questions, the most important of which were: How should we deal with oil? That is to say, how can we benefit from that resource to build a future? Is there a possibility to achieve continued development in the future that would secure a free and honorable life for the Libyan people, despite the scarcity of and difficulty to provide natural resources that are complementary and essential to life, such as water, agricultural land, pasture, and other natural resources?

Among the important questions raised was whether we should continue to deal with oil in the same way as we have been doing for about a quarter of a century, bearing in mind that oil is a depleted resource that will most certainly be exhausted after a specific period of time—that is when future generations would find themselves in a very difficult and serious economic situation. Or should we look for other modes and ways of dealing with

that depleted resource in so far as exploiting it and getting the most out of it in a way that will guarantee continued development without oil? Among other questions raised were: Doesn't the situation call for thinking as of now of ways of exploiting natural and permanent water resources in neighboring countries within the framework of Arab economic integration and mutual real economic interests? [passage omitted]

We meet today to hear about the results of the studies, which, undoubtedly, will initiate a host of beneficial and purposeful discussions.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Naturally, the group was quite large—experts and professors.

[Official] More than 20 members: There were about 45 professors and experts in various domains of oil, economy, and finance. [passage omitted]

We start with the oil sector, and Professor Abdullah al-Badri, chairman of the oil sector team, will present to us the results achieved by his team in general:

[Al-Badri] Brother leader, after your meeting on 9 September with the experts of oil and economy, and as my colleague the doctor said, working groups were set up in the oil field who took part directly in the preparing of studies concerning oil production and prospects of oil production in the next 26 years, and how this production would come down if present and future oil fields are not developed.

These groups also studied prospects of income and expenditure. They also studied natural gas reserves and gas exploitation inside the country to make it replace gas products currently used in power stations and in some other plants. [passage omitted: The groups also studied refining and industrialization development prospects, as well as projects to increase oil and gas production, and the expected income and expenditure].

I have with me at this meeting engineer 'Azzam al-Misallati who will be presenting expectations of oil production, income, and expenditure. I have also with me engineer 'Izz al-Din Ahmad al-Hamyuni, who will be making a presentation on natural gas reserves, production, exploitation, and expectations for income and expenditure. I have also engineer Ahmad 'Awn, who will be speaking on the development of refining, industrialization and expectations of income and expenditure. From the Ra's Lanuf company we have with us engineer 'Umar Muhammad al-Ghazal, who will be presenting in detail the plan of the Ra's Lanuf complex. I have also with me engineer Dhargham Muhammad Abu-Bakr, who will present a review of future projects.

At the end of the meeting, brother Hammudah Muhammad al-Aswad, secretary of the people's committee of the National Oil Corporation, will present the expectations of the gross income and expenditure. This income will include the expected production of oil, gas, refining, and industrialization. If you permit, brother

leader, we begin with brother 'Azzam al-Misallati who will present to us the oil production and expectations of income and expenditure.

[Al-Misallati] There are precisely five oil basins which produce crude oil and natural gas: the basins of (?Sitre), al-Kufrah, Murzig, Ghadamis, and the basin on the sea of Subratah. It is expected, God willing, that the oil produced by all these basins and those of Sitre and Subratah in particular [as heard], from all the oil fields which are producing now and depending on the facilities, and which are highlighted in red [on the chart] will reach nearly 1.7 million barrels from 1992 to the year 2000 and will fall to 1.1 million barrels between 2001 and 2010, and then to about 500,000 barrels a day from 2011 to 2020. [passage omitted: Higher figures can be achieved if new oil is discovered and developed; al-Misallati makes some forecasts and repeats that production will be decreasing]

If there is the opportunity to add some additional investments, either new resources: the discovery of new oil or the development of the oil fields which have already been discovered [word indistinct] on production or the development of modern techniques called additional (?yield) it is possible, through these operations, to increase our income in the period between 1992 and 2000 to 116 billion dollars, which will require expenditures amounting to 27 billion dollars for the same period.

As for the period between 2001 to 2010, the income will increase to 113 billion dollars and will require expenditures of 27 billion dollars. From the period between 2011 to 2020, the income will increase to 90 billion dollars [as heard] with expenditures amounting to 33 billion dollars. [passage omitted: production is to decrease] We move from oil to gas.

[Al-Qadhdhafi, interrupting] Before that, show us the required investments for this operation, which are marked in yellow.

[Al-Misallati] We have highlighted in yellow the required investments for the first nine years which will amount to 19 billion dollars and will follow approximately the same rate for the decade after that, i.e. between 2001 to 2010, and will be of nearly 2 billion dollars per year.

As for the period between 2011 to 2020, i.e. the third decade will be about 18 billion dollars, or 1.8 billion dollars per year. [passage omitted: making a number of forecasts and calculations]

[Official] Let us say we have a figure of 10 which goes down to 6.6 and to 2.2 after that. In other words, from 1992 to the year 2000, there will be a rate of 10; from 2001 to 2010, there will be a rate of 6.6; and from 2011 to 2020, there will be a rate of 2.2.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] That is to say that there will be an apparent decrease as of the year 2000. That is something

that the people have to understand; they have to know when the wealth it possesses will begin to dry out and end.

[Official] Those years will reflect low rates of production. Unless we invest, and if we carry on the way we are now, there will be a production rate of half a million barrels a day. It appears to me that we must have additional capabilities which can be of benefit to the Libyan people.

[Passage omitted: Al-Qadhdhafi rephrasing the official's words]

[Official] Let us point to the situation of natural gas in the Jamahiriyyah. Over the last two decades, no focus was cast on gas, either as a source of energy or of income. All the emphasis was laid on crude oil, its production, and processing.

[Passage omitted: official predicts that demand for natural gas is to increase and makes forecasts regarding gas production, consumption and exploitation, and future projects; Gives an overview of present pipelines, fields, projects and future ones]

We point out that between now and the year 2000, just as we dealt with the oil sector, the forecast income from gas activity will amount to 11 billion dollars, and this will require an expenditure of about 8 billion dollars for the development of the proposed transport networks and the future gas fields.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] We get what figure?

[Official] We get 11 billion dollars.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] The remaining amount is 3 billion.

[Official] Three billion dollars will remain, from now to the year 2000, considering that this year for [word indistinct] investment.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Do not tell us your income is 11 billion dollars when we have spent on it 8 billion dollars; the surplus is 3 billion dollars.

[Official] Yes, the surplus is 3 billion dollars which will be directed...

[Al-Qadhdhafi, interrupting] What is the difference between the two colors, yellow and green [on the chart]?

[Passage omitted: official mentions that things will improve after the year 2000 and makes some forecasts]

[Al-Qadhdhafi] So that means adding 1 billion extra from gas to the annual oil revenue?

[Passage omitted: unidentified official gives oil production figures from 1965 up to recently; another unidentified official gives locations of wells where water is derived for the cooling process at refineries]

[Al-Qadhdhafi] But for a long time, we have said that refineries should be away from the sea. We do not want to have all our refineries on water because the sea for us

is a frontline. However, you are saying that refineries can only be built on the coastline.

[Unidentified official] [Words indistinct]

[Al-Qadhdhafi] That is well; that is new information.

[Unidentified official] [Words indistinct] So the overall refining capacity is (2380,000) barrels a day divided among five refineries. Three of them are small and based wherever there is crude oil. Their objective is to meet the neighboring regions' needs of oil. The other two refineries are main ones, at Zawiyah and Ra's al-'Unuf. A big part of their production covers home market needs of oil derivatives. The remaining part is exported to the international market, also in the form of oil derivatives.

[Passage omitted: Official explains what derivatives are produced where, and discusses plan to develop al-Zawiyah refinery and the various by-products it produces]

st period of 1992-2000, we will need about \$7 billion; the income will just about cover the refineries and factories operations expenses, the value of crude oil and also the consumption demand rate. These \$7 billion divide up as follows: \$6 billion will be needed for investments that include \$2 billion to develop al-Zawiyah and Ra's Lanuf refineries; the team also believes it will be possible to build a third modern refinery by using the other \$3 billion; this refinery would be located in a suitable area, its investment expenses should be reasonable; it should also benefit from necessary facilities and sectors; and could achieve additional revenue. We need to allocate \$3 billion for the third refinery; the other billion is of course earmarked for the expenditure of existing refineries.

If we implement this plan and carry out these investments by the year 2201; the situation is set to change between 2001-2010 as the revenue from the three refineries and the factories will reach \$10 billion; \$4 billion will be allocated for operational expenditure; we have set aside an extra \$1 billion for developing the third phase of Ra's Lanuf complex; as we may expand this complex.

During the last phase between 2211-2020, the revenue is estimated at \$11 billion, and the required expenditure will only be \$4 billion for operating these refineries and factories. [passage omitted on water projects at a number of named fields between 1992 and 2002; official shows slides explaining oil production, notes importance of water projects for maintaining source pressure]

[Official] The projects which are particularly connected with gas, and as we have said there is natural gas and manufactured gas. On occasions there is not much demand for oil, in consequence we cannot produce gas from it. What is the solution: The solution is to develop the gas fields; those which are only related to gas and which are now before us: Developing the al-Tahaddi and Farid fields, most of these are natural gas fields. Then, modifying the gas liquefaction factory in al-Burayqah where K1 is found and has not been developed. In consequence, we must develop this factory so that it

produces K1 and be able to produce. Emptying the al-Intisar field. This al-Intisar field was an oil field to which we brought gas to increase the pressure of the source and obtain oil. Now, oil is about to be exhausted, and in consequence we must now extract the gas that we had originally stored.

Of course, the cost required, or the the investments required for these projects, in Libyan dinars of course ... [pauses]...Then, there is the development of the offshore fields, the development of the west Jamahiriyah and al-Wafa' fields, and laying down the pipelines that are specific for gas from al-Khums to Abu Kammash, from al-Burayqah to Banghazi, and from Banghazi to Tubruq. These pipelines of course provide gas to the electricity plant and other factories, and also [word indistinct] gas.

[Official] We now review the situation: to maintain the current situation regarding crude oil, namely the production of currently operational oilfields; their expenditure and also the continued implementation of gas and industrialization programs.

If we continue as we are, total revenue will reach \$120 billion during the first phase of 1992-2000. From this sum, we will need \$34 billion for expenditure either in the form of essential investments, as we have noticed from the outlined reviews, or for operations expenditure. We will be left with \$86 billion, which constitute 72 percent, for use for investments and the findings of the economic studies that were carried out by expert economists.

The period 2001-2010 will yield a revenue of \$118 billion, of which we will need \$32 billion for spending on the remaining investments from the first phase, they are minimal; and also essential expenditure for operation reasons.

Consequently, \$32 billion would represent 27 percent of the overall revenue that we will need toward these operations; we will be left with \$86 billion, representing 73 percent of total revenue for other uses.

During the third period 2211-2020, total revenue is estimated at \$76 billion, of which we will use \$30 billion toward our expenditure for covering operational costs, with \$46 billion left for other uses.

Obviously, you have noticed that revenue is declining gradually. This is of course due to the lack of any investments; this phenomenon has forced a stalemate situation. The message which we get from this decline is the need for investment to protect or improve this situation so as to achieve the maximum revenue.

The curved lines on this plan show a second phenomenon, the development of the oilfields that are being currently discovered, in addition to those that we expect to find during the current decade and until the year 2000; they will be added to the fields which will be developed at a later stage; the plan also envisages the creation of sophisticated technology for additional oil recovery to increase the volume of oil recovery operations.

If these conditions are met and the necessary expenditure is provided for this purpose, in addition to the

program of gas development and also industrialization program, the picture will be as follows:

We expect an overall revenue estimated at \$128 billion during the first phase and until the year 2000; we will need \$42 billion from this amount toward expenditure in the form of the necessary investments in either the oil, gas, or industry sectors; \$86 billion, which represent 67 percent approximately, will be used for other purposes.

During the second phase between 2001-2010, revenue is expected to increase - we noticed from the previous map that there was a decline between this phase and the ensuing one—however here we notice that there is a spiralling increase because of the support provided for production thanks to new discoveries and development of the already existing oilfields, in addition to the additional oil recovery programs. Therefore, revenue is expected to jump up to \$149 billion, \$40 billion of which will be used for spending on the sector either in the form of operations expenditure or the remaining part of the investment programs left over from the first phase; the remaining \$109 billions, which represent 73 percent of the overall revenue, are to be used for other purposes.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] The income will be \$10 billion per year. However, in the decade after that it will amount to \$8 billion.

[Official] \$8.5 billion per year.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] What about after that?

[Official] Naturally, this period has seen an increase of production quantities as far as oil is concerned and there are large quantities (which can be produced) in the next 50 years. The industrialization program will continue to achieve the income predicted from it. However, we have carried out studies up to the year 2020.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] The decrease is apparent.

[Official] The decrease is naturally obvious in all cases. [passage omitted: decrease is inevitable as resources are finite. If the existing oilfields are developed and new oil is discovered there will more income]

This is the last chart on income during the three decades which start in 1992 and end in 2020. In this situation, if we do not invest in oil and maintain the production of the existing fields, in addition to maintaining the gas plan as presented and the industrialization plan, there will be an income of \$314 billion during all the three decades. Of this income we need \$96 billions, and \$218 billion will remain and these represent about 69 percent of the total income during these three decades.

The second curve shows the second case which is that of the development of discovered fields and the achievement of discoveries and their development in addition to preserving the fields which are now in production. Income will increase, during the three decades, from \$314 to \$406 billions. We will use \$127 billion from it, for various uses:

either in the form of investments or operational expenses, and \$279 billion will remain for other uses.

In simple terms, we can say that if we continue with our investments programs which have been presented, income will be as follows: \$279 billion. If we carry on as we are now, income will fall from \$279 to \$218 billion. [passage omitted: this industry, as mentioned earlier, needs continuous investments]

[Official] If we do not do anything, our income will fall from \$10 billion to \$6 billion then to \$2.5 billion in 2020. However, if we make these investments, our income will increase from \$7.5 billion per year to \$9.5 billion per year as shown in the last chart.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] What are your conclusions?

[Official] It is clear that is impossible to develop Libya's oil and gas capabilities to achieve additional revenue during the coming year and to alleviate the effect of the decline of this resource after the year 2000. Judging by the statistics supplied by some brothers, it is clear that after the year 2000 natural production capabilities will gradually dwindle as we embark on the two decades of 2010-2020. However, studies have shown and proved that there are two essential elements that could help increase the production volume and consequently the predicted oil revenue.

First of all, there is the introduction of modern methods that require a degree of simple investment which will increase our production and consequently our revenue. Studies also indicate that there are areas which have not been discovered yet, and domestic reserves which could relatively help increase oil revenue. [passage omitted: more discussions and studies are needed to formulate a better plan for future investments]

Undoubtedly, we used to rely heavily on this oil in our life. Studies prove this; it seems to me that brothers who are present here used these results to address the important issues: namely, how we can deal with this dwindling source in the light of the other economic circumstances pertaining to materials that complement and boost the country's economy. These are my initial conclusions; I believe that brothers could have some questions and conclusions that could be of some benefit to us. Thank you. [passage omitted: unidentified speakers note that revenues could improve if there is increased demand for oil]

[Al-Qadhdhafi] This is really the danger signal: the main resource in this country has a limited lifetime, and this has become obvious to us. The fact that its lifetime is limited does not mean that we should despair. No, this constitutes an income for us and we have to know how to manage this income to build our post-oil future.

We will hear the other danger signal when the General Water Board and water experts come and show us that water in Libya is just like oil and its life, whether it is from the great manmade river or other subterranean water used in agriculture, is limited and will decrease and we will not have any water apart from rainfall. This much is known limited

and experts can show us the quantity of rain water in Libya and how much of it can be exploited if we make all efforts. There is a quantity of water which we inevitably lose, and I do not know what experts call this.

However, the rain water that we can use, by deploying every effort, should be in limited quantities. This resource should be added in addition to oil, gas, and underground water. [Passage omitted: al-Qadhafi recalls importance of water in Libya; and how one can exploit it for economic purposes; Libya is rich with water resources and should be exploited wisely for the sake of future generations]

In fact, the whole world is now concerned about increasing population. Once there were two billion persons, now we have five or six billions, and in a short time this number will be eight billions. This is an unexpectedly serious matter.

We are part of the world and studies envisage that every 18 years the world population increases by one million; here in Libya every three years our population goes up by one million. This is due to improved living standards, immunisation for children, a healthy diet, improved medical treatment, a high standard of people's education, and the fact that people are more aware. All this contributes to longevity, it reduces diseases and increases the population. On the other hand, however, it represents a burden on economic resources. One should think about this issue.

We are not alone in this problem. If one takes Egypt, one realizes that they are not worried about this matter. Nevertheless, one feels disturbed when one realizes Egypt's population and its capabilities; one realizes that it faces an unbelievably serious danger. The water of the Nile river can no longer provide enough supplies for Egypt; not to mention the Maghreb, which has no future whatsoever because of lack of water and increasing population, especially in the case of Tunisia, if it remains as it is now, trapped between Libya, Algeria, and the sea. [passage omitted: people could face the fate of those in Somalia or other famine-hit countries in the Third World]

As I told you yesterday regarding oil, I was surprised to hear about a report on the Jewish state which states that its GNP was \$50 billion. I realized that this revenue equals that of Saudi Arabia which sells 80 million barrels of oil a day, that is, Saudi Arabia sells 8 million barrels per day [as heard]; its revenue is \$50 billion and Israel's revenue is also \$50 billion.

When one says that Israel has no oil and Libya has oil, the lay person thinks that Libya is a very rich country. However, our revenue, as you have learned, is only \$10 billion, whereas that of the Jews is \$50 billion; one wonders about their secret. Having said that, after having consulted some papers, I found out that their debts are very huge, their expenditure is rising, their government spending is rising, they have a spiralling deficit, which reached \$5 billions this year; the government expenditure exceeds its revenues. Nevertheless, the government is burdened by external debts in addition to

internal ones. Despite their large GNP, which is \$50 billions, their future is in real danger; they will finish.

They Israelis are now complaining of a water shortage, though they have seized the Jordan, Litani, and Yarmuk rivers. Despite this, they complain of a water shortage due to increased population and limited land. The idea of getting water from Turkey to save them has come from here. [passage omitted: the Israelis might copy the idea of the Libyan man-made river and impose it on the Arabs]

People's Congress Secretary Meets Iranian Envoy

LD0903140693 Tripoli Great Jamahiriya Radic
Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] The brother secretary of the General People's Congress had a meeting this morning with brother Hojjat ol-Islam Nuri-Shahrudi, ambassador of the Republic of Iran in the Great Jamahiriya, who handed him a written message from brother Nateq-Nuri, speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly in Iran.

During their meeting, the ambassador of the Republic of Iran reaffirmed the rejection by the people and government of the Republic of Iran of the mandatory measures imposed on the Great Jamahiriya. He stressed the depth of ties between the Great Jamahiriya and Iran and the need to strengthen and bolster them to serve the mutual interest of the two brotherly peoples. He also stressed the importance of strengthening existing ties between the secretariat of the General People's Congress in the Great Jamahiriya and the Consultative Assembly in Iran.

Iraqi Minister Visits National General Fair

LD0903153393 Tripoli JANA in English 1423 GMT
9 Mar 93

[Text] Tripoli, Al Rabie [March] 9, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Muhammed Mahdi Salih the minister of trade in sisterly Iraq who is currently visiting the Great Jamahiriya paid a visit this morning to the second annual National General Fair. He toured around the sections of the fair which included various national stands that highlighted progress and development in various areas achieved by the Arab Libyan people through the great Al Fatah revolution.

The Iraqi minister expressed his delight and admiration for what he had seen and the progress of industries as well as the achievements that has been given prominence during the second session of the National General Fair. He said, the things which have seen in the fair reflect the high standard of development achieved on the Great Jamahiriya land. I wish for the brotherly Arab Libyan people a lot of prosperity and flourishing in the service of the Arab nation.

Sudan**License for Cairo University's Khartoum Branch Revoked***NC0903220993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2140 GMT
9 Mar 93*

[Text] Khartoum, 9 Mar (MENA)—Sudanese Higher Education Minister Dr. Ibrahim Ahmad 'Umar has revoked the license of Cairo University's Khartoum Branch. The license was originally issued in 1955. Dr 'Umar summoned Ibrahim al-Shuwayhi, Egyptian minister plenipotentiary and charge d'affaires in Khartoum, this evening and informed him of this decision, which takes effect immediately.

Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council and prime minister, issued a decree renaming Cairo University's Khartoum branch "the University of the Two Niles". He also removed the president of Sudan's al-Fatih University from his post and appointed him as president of the renamed university.

The Sudanese higher education minister announced that examination dates at the university will not change. He said the decision to revoke the license comes in the context of the revival of higher learning in Sudan and to apply Sudanese curricula. He thanked the Egyptian people and Egyptian professors for their great services to Sudanese students.

Iraqi Industry Minister Arrives for Talks*JN0903130693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1032 GMT
9 Mar 93*

[Text] Khartoum, 9 Mar (INA)—Industry and Minerals Minister Lieutenant General 'Amir Hammudi al-Sa'di arrived here this morning on a visit to Sudan lasting several days. The minister will hold talks with Sudanese officials aimed at consolidating relations between the two fraternal countries in various industrial fields.

TNA Chairman Leads Delegation to Nigeria*EA0703065093 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service
Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Mar 93*

[Excerpts] Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, chairman of the Transitional National Assembly [TNA] and leader of the government delegation to the peace negotiations, will lead a high level delegation to Nigeria on 8 March, carrying a letter from Lt. Gen. al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and of the Council of Ministers, to his Nigerian brother Ibrahim Babangida.

The delegation will include Dr. Ali al-Haj Muhammad, the minister of planning and investment and the government delegation's official spokesman; Ahmad al-Radi Jabir, chairman of the TNA Peace Committee; and Mr. John (?Ngor), TNA member.

Mr. Ahmad al-Radi Jabir said that the letter was being dispatched in the context of the peace efforts being made,

and contained expressions of gratitude from Sudan's government and people for the efforts made by Babangida and a number of African presidents to bring about peace in the country. His excellency described the moves by certain parliamentary figures in the British House of Commons as attempts to abort the country's peace process and as part of a plan of certain western states, which had expressed their dissatisfaction over what had been achieved in terms of the recent meeting between the government and rebel Garang's faction in Kampala. [passage omitted]

His excellency declared that the statement issued by the American ambassador in Khartoum during his recent conference in Nairobi had been positive and constituted a contribution towards the peace process inasmuch as it gave the lie to the allegations being made against Sudan over the dispatch of food aid to the needy.

Jabir said that hostile media had carried such reports in order to distort and serve political ambitions with a view to destroying Sudan's unity. He disclosed that a high-level delegation had left for the United States today to present the government's political views, its pursuit of the peace process, to provide briefings on what had been achieved in the field of self-sufficiency and in terms of comprehensive agricultural, economic, and social development in the context of Sudan's foreign policy and briefing the international community on it.

Further Report*EA0803131093 Khartoum SUNA in English 0920 GMT
8 Mar 93*

[Text] Khartoum, 8 Mar (SUNA)—Speaker of the Transitional National Assembly (TNA) and head of the Sudan Government delegation to the peace talks, Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, left here Monday leading a delegation to Abuja, the Nigerian capital.

The delegation will convey a written message from the RCC [Revolution Command Council] chairman, Gen 'Umar al-Bashir, to the Nigerian president, dealing with the peace efforts and affirmation of the Sudanese Government attendance to the peace talks at the time to be fixed by the Nigerian Government. The meeting in Abuja will review the bilateral relations.

Meanwhile, the delegation will hold at the sideline of the visit meeting with the Nigerian officials and leaderships of the Nigerian Parliament, said an official source.

It is worth mentioning that the government delegation includes government spokesman for the peace talks, Dr 'Ali al-Hajj, the chairman of the TNA peace committee, Ahmad al-Radi Jabir, John Angor, besides the Sudan ambassador to Nigeria, Dr Ahmad al-Tijani, who is to join the delegation in Abuja.

Kuwait

Foreign Minister Hails Afghan Accord

LD0903223893 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 2100 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Excerpt] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has expressed his hope that the agreement signed recently by the leaders of the main Afghan mujahedin factions will produce the desirable results in a way that serves the interests of the Afghan people. He described the agreement as a successful step toward stability in Afghanistan.

In a statement to KUNA, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said that Kuwait has followed with great satisfaction the progress of the brother leaders of the main Afghan mujahedin factions in reaching the blessed agreement which was signed in Islamabad last Sunday with a view to establishing peace in Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Prince Sultan Receives Afghan, Pakistani Leaders in Medina

LD0903150793 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1430 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Excerpt] His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general, today received at his palace in Medina His Excellency Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of Afghanistan, His Excellency Nawaz Sharif, prime minister of Pakistan, Golboddin Hekmatyar, the new Afghan prime minister [as heard—Hekmatyar has not yet formally accepted this position], and Sebghatollah Mojadeddi, the former

Afghan president. [passage omitted: the prince congratulated the Afghan leaders on the agreement they have concluded; Sharif expressed thanks and appreciation for King Fahd's role in helping the Afghans arrive at this agreement]

Pakistan's Sharif on Afghan Accord

BK1003033593 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Speaking to Saudi Defense Minister Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, who called on him in Medina yesterday, Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said the entire Muslim community has expressed delight over the finalization of the Afghanistan peace accord. The prime minister paid tributes to Afghan leaders for their sincere efforts toward establishing peace in Afghanistan. Nawaz Sharif said that in his last meeting with King Fahd, the king had expressed concern over the situation in Afghanistan. He said the role of the Saudi ruler in the peace in Afghanistan is a source of strength to us. Prince Sultan lauded the prime minister's part in establishing peace in Afghanistan. Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani thanked Pakistan and Saudi Arabia for their cooperation in reaching the accord.

United Arab Emirates

Diplomatic Relations Established With Panama

JN0903142993 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 9 March (WAKH)—The United Arab Emirates and the Republic of Panama have announced the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries at the ambassadorial level as of today, 9 March 1993. [passage omitted]

Deal on Oil, Intelligence Reportedly Offered to Washington*PM1003102693 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Mar 93 p 1*

[Unattributed report: "Two Exciting Iraqi Offers To Washington: To Withdraw From OPEC and Sell Oil at Reduced Price; To Cooperate in Intelligence Sphere With United States]

[Excerpt] London, Geneva, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Political and diplomatic sources say that Iraqi political activities have reached a peak over the past two weeks, moving in several directions. There is one tendency in Baghdad talking about the option of "testing" the U.S. Administration's intentions and muscles. Those who support this tendency believe that the U.S. Administration's new orientation cannot be determined without testing it, even if it leads to making statements or taking unusual actions to uncover the features of new U.S. policy.

Perhaps this is clearly reflected in the resumption of the claim that "Kuwait is Iraqi" or the Iraqi media's publication of the minutes of official meetings between Saddam Husayn and his foreign visitors during the Gulf war.

As for the second tendency, it is the move in the Arab direction. It is represented by Saddam Husayn's brother, Barzan al-Tikriti, who has been appointed adviser to him in the rank of minister. He is making an Arab tour, the last destination of which was Morocco, where political circles say that he requested that Morocco make extensive efforts to include the Arab world and to secure a channel of contacts with Washington by virtue of the relationship of mutual respect between Rabat and the U.S. capital.

As for the third tendency—and this is the important one—it is the move at the U.S. level. Private sources tell AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from Washington that an Iraqi offer was submitted to Washington last week stipulating Iraq's willingness to withdraw from OPEC in return for allowing it to export [oil], and to make huge reductions in oil prices which could lead to a disruption in the economies of the OPEC states, particularly a crisis in prices, as a well-informed oil expert says.

As for the offer complementing the first one, it is that Baghdad's message contained a willingness to establish full intelligence cooperation with the United States to include handing over all the documents and information concerning extremist terrorist organizations and fundamentalist quarters with which Iraq has been cooperating since the seventies, and placing them at Washington's disposal.

The sources say that the U.S. capital has not responded to these two Iraqi offers, which were submitted via a private channel linking the two capitals.

At the same time Iraq is preparing to resume its frozen relations with Turkey. [passage omitted]

Two Nuclear Scientists Reported Killed*NC0903175793 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Mar 93*

[Text] According to the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan's exclusive sources, an armed group killed nuclear scientist Dr. Talal at his home in al-'A'zamiyah on the night of 5-6 February. Another nuclear scientist, Dr. 'Amir, was killed by unidentified men in his home in the Tammuz quarter on Filastin Street on the night of 20-21 February. Sources said the two dead nuclear experts were working in the al-Za'faraniyah nuclear establishment.

These sources also said that a large explosion occurred in the al-Hurriyah Publishing House near [name indistinct] early this month, injuring three people and causing extensive damage to the building and work stoppage for three days.

The same sources added that fierce fighting broke out between two clans in Diyala, leaving 10 people dead and 13 others injured on the night of 7-8 March. The sources said the fighting broke out because the Iraqi regime armed the tribes in southern Iraq.

Human Rights Report on Marshlands Criticized*JN0903121993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 9 Mar 93*

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Mar (INA)—An Iraqi newspaper has denounced the false allegations made by Van der Stoel, special rapporteur of the Human Rights Committee, on systematic annihilation campaigns against inhabitants of the al-Basrah marshlands.

In an article today, the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH says: It seems that Van der Stoel has not learned from a previous involvement when his allegations and false pretexts were invalidated. The allegations he mentioned in his notorious report on the marshlands in southern Iraq claim that leader Saddam's river is being used against the marshlands' inhabitants and their folkloric heritage. The paper points out that the world knows well that this great river aims to reclaim the arid lands without harming the marshlands.

AL-JUMHURIYAH points out that Van der Stoel has once again committed the same mistake by using the one standard of information dictated by sources known for their hostile stand against Iraq in order to circulate a lie whose falsehood was previously confirmed to the world. The paper wonders: How can a man of more than 70 years of age shed false tears over the marshlands' inhabitants for alleged government oppression at a time when he makes no mention of the ignominious crimes and actions committed by infiltrators from a Muslim neighbor, who were dispatched to the Iraqi cities to carry out criminal and subversive acts. AL-JUMHURIYAH

says: This is an essential part of Van der Stoel's humanitarian task, if he is indeed the rapporteur of the Human Rights Committee. If Van der Stoel is really a merciful person, then why is he not affected by the hardships of the entire Iraqi people who are suffering from a total blockade imposed by the unjust ones?

The paper explains that Van der Stoel's paid reports have been exposed to everyone and are within the framework of the conspiracy against our great country. The role of Van der Stoel, the special rapporteur of the Human Rights Committee assigned to Iraq, is clear in this conspiracy. It is a malicious role that is not less harmful than that of the other links in the chain of this conspiracy, the paper concludes.

Saddam Receives Civil, Religious Figures in al-Najaf

JN0703193593 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
Network in Arabic 1145 GMT 7 Mar 93

["Dialogue" in Iraqi vernacular between Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and unidentified civil and religious figures in al-Najaf Governorate on the occasion of Ramadan; first paragraph is announcer-read introduction; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] Esteemed men of religion and a number of scholars, tribal chieftains, and figures from holy al-Najaf have sworn allegiance to leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, and to great Iraq—its land, sky, and waters. Amid popular slogans chanted in praise of the leader and the homeland and among the fluttering flags and proud rifles, the leader president gave his valuable instructions to all the Iraqis. His excellency asked comrade Radi Hasan Salman, member of the Iraq Command and official in charge of the Babil, al-Najaf, and Karbala' organizations; and the al-Najaf governor to provide all the cultural and municipal services that al-Najaf Governorate needs. His excellency also ordered that six gates be opened for the 'Ali Bin-Abi-Talib Mosque in al-Kufah after being studied by the antiquities and awqaf department. All those present at the meeting had al-Iftar hosted by the leader president. [passage omitted]

[Saddam] May you enjoy good health. You genuinely represent the spirit and values of al-Najaf through your position. If the landmarks of history are not represented, people around these landmarks are bewildered. [passage omitted on al-Najaf affairs containing speakers' remarks praising Saddam]

They will lose much. When they discover the facts, the people who have misrepresented the facts will lose much. Moreover, it will be difficult for them to carry out further misrepresentations. [passage omitted]

When someone reminds us of the need to take care of al-Najaf, we feel inefficient because al-Najaf is not only an Iraqi city. Al-Najaf includes our soul and blood. [passage omitted] Almighty God could have lifted the siege imposed on great Muhammad, God's prayers and peace be upon him, and his followers within two or three weeks or He could have prevented the siege imposed by the Quraysh [Arab tribe in ancient Mecca] infidels. But He wanted it to be a way to refine faith, He wanted it to be way to show the example of the faithful, and He wanted it to be a way to record high marks for patience and firm faith. [passage omitted]

We believe in our history. Uhud [a battle in Prophet Muhammad's era] is part of our history and a great landmark in our history. You all have read that in a difficult situation, messenger Muhammad, God's prayers and peace be upon him, and a small number of his followers managed to confront the infidels. But later, all those who were shaken at a certain moment became famous figures in Islam. [passage omitted] The Mother of Battles began in August and is still going on. Every one of you, as well as your families, tribes, and cities have suffered much from it. This is jihad. Your oath today is an oath of jihad and steadfastness. This is the Mother of Battles. The Mother of Battles is your position. Those who made mistakes are our sons. Those who see your stand will feel they are wrong. We hope that everyone will take the path of good. May God bless you. We hope that we will not fail to do anything to strengthen the people; honor you; God willing, and satisfy God and humanity.

Invitation to 20 April Peace Talks Issued

NC1003104693 Paris AFP in English 1039 GMT
10 Mar 93

[Text] Jerusalem, March 10 (AFP)—The United States and Russia issued on Wednesday an invitation to Israel to resume the bilateral and multilateral Middle East peace talks with the Arabs in Washington, officials said.

Foreign ministry sources said the ninth round of the bilateral talks with Jordan, Lebanon, the Palestinians and Syria would start on April 20 and be open-ended.

The date of the bilateral talks would be published officially in Washington and Moscow later in the day, a foreign ministry spokesman said.

News Received With 'Satisfaction'

TA1003121193 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
10 Mar 93 pp A1, A8

[Excerpts] Today the United States and Russia will apparently relay to Israel and the other partners to the peace process invitations to the ninth round of talks due to be launched in Washington on 20 April. [passage omitted]

Political elements in Jerusalem yesterday responded with satisfaction to the decision to dispatch invitations, noting however that to the best of their knowledge, the Palestinians have not waived their terms for returning to the talks, particularly the demand that Israel promise to abstain from deporting in the future.

The dispatch of invitations is expected to remove the deportees issue from the agenda of the Clinton-Rabin meeting on 15 March and to allow the two men to concentrate on substantive issues pertaining to the peace process.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who leaves on a 10-day visit to the United States tomorrow night, will focus on the following issues in his talks with President Clinton and the secretaries of state and defense: maintaining Israel's qualitative edge; updating the strategic cooperation agreement, including the prepositioning of military equipment in Israel and readying the Haifa port for 6th Fleet vessels; continuing the Arrow project; maintaining the level of defense and civilian aid; and waging a struggle against the Arab boycott.

In the political sphere, Rabin will seek to achieve maximum coordination with the President on the question of U.S. involvement in the peace process and on an understanding concerning red lines to be observed in negotiations; on Jerusalem staying off the agenda of the interim arrangement talks; on the need for Syrian clarifications concerning the nature of peace and the absence of linkage with negotiations with the other Arab partners; and on the need for understanding prior to the discussion of the extent of withdrawal from the Golan.

The prime minister plans to discuss the Iranian threat and the rise of Islamic fundamentalism with the U.S. President. It is believed in the Israeli Embassy in Washington that the terrorist attack on the New York World Trade Center will make it easier for Rabin to find understanding for the Israeli apprehension of the ascent of radical elements in the Middle East.

According to political elements in Jerusalem, Rabin will ask Clinton to explicitly pledge to abstain from resuming the dialogue with the PLO, in view of the growing European tendency to upgrade the level of representation of and contacts with the organization.

It is believed in Jerusalem that Britain would not have invited PLO-Tunis representatives to talks in London without at least tacit consent from Washington. Deputy Foreign Minister Beilin, who is on his way to London, will today discuss the issue with Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and his deputy, Douglas Hogg.

The U.S. Administration attributes great importance to the prime minister's visit to the United States and hopes that he will bring new and detailed information on Israel's plans for the negotiations with Syria and the Palestinians.

The administration further expects Rabin to inform them of the improvements and alleviating measures he intends to introduce in the sphere of human rights in the territories. According to senior U.S. Administration officials, Rabin promised the Americans to introduce such improvements after the beginning of the next round of talks.

Upon Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' return from Europe tomorrow, Rabin and Peres will hold their last consultation prior to Rabin's departure for Washington. In addition to Defense Ministry Director General David Ivri, Rabin will also be accompanied by Eytan Bentzur, Foreign Ministry deputy director general in charge of the North America and Disarmament Branch. [passage omitted]

Beilin Hopes for Breakthrough

TA1003112893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005
GMT 10 Mar 93

[Report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz]

[Text] U.S. Ambassador William Harrop and Russian Ambassador Aleksandr Bovin—representing the cosponsors of the Madrid talks—arrived at Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin's office and ceremoniously handed him a large envelope containing the letters of invitation to the next round of talks in the second half of April. After the meeting with Dr. Beilin, Amb. Harrop said he believes that the Palestinians will also come to the next round of talks.

[Begin Harrop's remarks, in English] We believe they will come. They are just now receiving their invitation.

We expect to see them in Washington in April. We have reason to be confident they will be there. [end recording]

Mr. Harrop's remarks confirm finally that the Palestinians will also be in Washington in the second half of April.

Dr. Beilin was asked what Israel is contributing to the resumption of the political process.

[Begin Beilin recording] It is not a question of Israeli flexibility, it is one of our readiness—and, I hope, also that of the other sides, assuming that everyone comes to the negotiating table—to advance the peace process, to be aware of the opportunity created here, to exploit it, and to turn the 10th round of talks into a breakthrough. We will, of course, contribute our part. [end recording]

An official announcement on the date of the talks will be issued at 1600 [1400 GMT]. It will most likely be 19 April. From Israel's viewpoint, this round can last as long as needed, Dr. Beilin said. As far as we know, Molly Williamson, the U.S. consul in Jerusalem, will present the letter of invitation to the Palestinian delegation today.

Shahaq Warns of Repercussions of Hizballah Policy

TA0903200293 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Excerpt] Deputy Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq today said that Israel would soon have to confront changes in the policies of Hizballah decision makers, which would have serious and dangerous repercussions for Israel. Speaking before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, the deputy chief of staff said that there had been a rise in Hizballah activity such as the recent widespread firing of katyusha rockets. Maj. Gen. Shahaq warned that there could also be opportunities to fire katyushas at Israel in the future.

The deputy chief of staff pointed out that the situation in Judea and Samaria was much better than in the Gaza Strip. [passage omitted]

IDF Kills Arab Student, Wounds 2 After Stoning

TA1003094393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Majid Haj'at, a 17-year-old high school student from the village of Burqa' near Nabulus, was shot dead and two others were wounded by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] after their vehicle was stoned north of Jerusalem. Our correspondents Moti Amir and Moshe Nussbaum report that a bus carrying soldiers belonging to the Duvdevan undercover unit was stoned near the al-Ram junction. The soldiers got out of the bus and chased after the perpetrators into the Bayt Hanina neighborhood. During the chase, the soldiers fired at the stone throwers, killing one and wounding two. The casualties were taken

to Augusta Victoria Hospital. The body of the youth killed was also taken there, but was snatched away by his family.

Stone throwing is a daily occurrence at the al-Ram junction north of Jerusalem. A baby was injured when it was struck on the head by a stone about a month ago.

Egypt's Envoy Opposes Gaza Pullback Without Preparation

TA0903173793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Egypt's Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni said he was opposed to a unilateral Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip without first carrying out the adequate preparations. In a meeting with Histadrut Labor Federation officials in Haifa, Ambassador Basyuni coined the slogan: No to Gaza Now but yes to Gaza First!

The ambassador said that pulling out of the Strip without first preparing it for self-rule and establishing an economic infrastructure would not resolve anything.

Mr. Basyuni also insisted on the need to hold elections in the Gaza Strip, and said that Gaza should be part of a comprehensive resolution of the Palestinian problem.

IDF General Briefs Knesset Committee on Gaza Situation

TA0903162693 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 9 mar 93

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will install metal detectors at the check-out points from the Gaza Strip and will improve security arrangements in the Erez terminal at a cost of 10 million shekels, the deputy chief of staff reported to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today. Reacting to the proposal of Knesset Member [MK] Ran Kohen that civilians carry arms at all times while still on reserves duty, Major General Amnon Shahaq said the idea was worth looking into. Our correspondent Dov Gilhar reports:

Deputy Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq was asked this morning to propose IDF solutions to the deteriorating situation in the Gaza Strip. Shahaq said that the IDF intends to install magnetic metal detectors in all 30 check-out points at the Erez terminal at a cost of 10 million shekels and will add road signs. Lack of road signs caused the late Yehoshu'a Weissbrod to drive into downtown Rafah.

Shahaq said the Erez terminal constitutes a deterrent factor but it cannot stop murderers, since they will find other ways to get out of the Gaza Strip. He added that Palestinians in the Gaza Strip hold large quantities of weapons. According to him, the economic distress in the Gaza Strip is one of the reasons why more serious acts of violence are perpetrated by its residents than by those of Judea and Samaria.

MK Ran Kohen proposed that civilians carry arms for self-defense at all times while still on reserve duty, and Shahaq said that the idea was worth looking into.

The deputy chief of staff noted that the IDF has not changed its security concept with regard to the Gaza Strip and that at this point it has no plans to change its deployment in the refugee camps.

As for the affair involving UNRWA [UN Relief and Works Agency] worker Katherine Striker, Maj. Gen. Shahaq said: Relations with UNRWA are not good. The organization mainly employs locals and it impairs our activities.

Just like the chief of staff, Shahaq also denied MK Binyamin Netanyahu's allegations that the IDF has contingency plans for a withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 9 March reports that Shahaq told the committee "he does not know about any plan for a withdrawal in or from the Golan Heights, which has supposedly been submitted to the defense minister and the chief of staff. The General Staff talks about many things, he said, but there has been no concrete talk about a military redeployment either in, from, or on the periphery of the Golan Heights."

[Gen. Shahaq added that "there is a very massive presence of IDF units in the Gaza Strip, and this affects regular training programs. However, we have no other choice because the IDF's main mission at present is to fight terror."

[The deputy chief of staff noted that "check-ups at the Erez terminal are ineffective since it is absolutely impossible to match computerized identity cards to their owners and because cars are only checked at random."

[He told the committee that "the number of wanted men in Judea and Samaria has decreased drastically, from over 400 last year to 88 at present. He went on to say that he does not know whether Syria's relations with Iran can be described as an alliance, but both countries share common interests, and Hizballah is one of them. Maj. Gen. Shahaq pointed out that Hizballah enjoys Syria's protection in Lebanon, and Damascus has no objection that Hizballah operate against Israel. He stressed that Hizballah's presence north of the security zone is dangerous and very worrisome."]

State Buying Lands To Avoid Possible Future Compensation

TA1003111193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] The state has bought lands from Jews in north Jerusalem near the settlement of Hadasha in order to reduce the possibility that it might have to pay financial compensation if there is a peace settlement in the region.

Our correspondent Mira Amsalem reports that this transpires from the response given by the custodian of abandoned state property in the Civil Administration to the High Court of Justice, which is hearing in an appeal by one of the Jewish owners. The appeal refers to lands bought by Jews in Judea and Samaria during the British Mandate before the State of Israel was established. It appears that the state bought such lands over the years via the Himanuta company. An heir to one of the owners of such land is demanding that it be returned to him so that he can make use of it himself.

Slight Shift Seen in al-Asad's Stand on Golan

TA0903140893 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Mar 93 p B1

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "There Is No Magic Word"]

[Text] "The Magic Word Prime Minister Rabin of Israel had been Looking for." This is how Leslie Gelb, a senior commentator for THE NEW YORK TIMES, described what Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad told U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Damascus. THE NEW YORK TIMES speaks of a breakthrough and, therefore, it is no wonder that the newspapers are full of positive headlines regarding the shift in the Syrian position. An Israeli evening paper even went as far as reporting that al-Asad has not only agreed to a gradual withdrawal, but also to a less-than-total withdrawal (which, incidentally, THE NEW YORK TIMES did not say).

Well, there is no magic word here, and certainly there is no breakthrough. The official U.S. report to Israel about Christopher's discussion with al-Asad did mention the Syrian president's positive attitude, but in no way did it indicate a significant change. Other sources were also unable to report that al-Asad's stand has substantially changed. Something may have been said in the tete-a-tete meeting between al-Asad and Christopher, but if what Leslie Gelb wrote is the news, then there is no breakthrough yet, unfortunately. There is, however, a message here for Israel and Yitzhak Rabin.

According to THE NEW YORK TIMES, "the magic word" is that the Syrian president has agreed to a gradual Israeli withdrawal from the Golan. What THE NEW YORK TIMES considers a scoop, however, is no news for the Israeli top echelons and intelligence. It has been already known here that al-Asad will be ready to make concessions pertaining to security arrangements. On two occasions, I heard Syrian figures remark on Damascus' readiness to be flexible in terms of security arrangements as well as on gradual progress, once a comprehensive understanding has been reached. Had al-Asad told Christopher that total peace, including a signed agreement, will accompany the final stage of the withdrawal—regardless of what happens in the negotiations between Israel, the Palestinians, and the other Arab countries—it could have been termed as a magic word, a breakthrough.

And still, there is a message for Rabin in al-Asad's remarks. Al-Asad says that he will be ready to hold flexible negotiations on the security component, one of the three main components of the negotiations—withdrawal, security, and peace. He is not ready to make any concessions on the territorial component; that is, he is demanding a total withdrawal. Hence, whoever believes that we may reach an agreement with the Syrians gradually, and perhaps not pay the full price, is deluding himself: Israel must first agree in principle to a total withdrawal. He also insists that, with regard to the third, the peace agreement component, the agreement between Syria and Israel will only be made as a part of a peace agreement with the other Arab partners to the negotiations. Al-Asad shows understanding of Rabin's probable domestic problems. Therefore, via Christopher, he advises that as far as he is concerned, Rabin may swallow the pill in small dosages. The practical meaning of this is that a gradual withdrawal provides an opening to various options of security arrangements and to the gradual removal of settlements. This is al-Asad's flexibility.

Tactically, there is a change here, when compared to al-Asad's past negotiating methods. Usually, he would present such a card only at the very last moment, when everyone is convinced that all the efforts have failed. Now he did that in his almost opening move. The reason for that may be that al-Asad wants a good start with the new U.S. President, and perhaps he is in a hurry, for some reason.

There is no breakthrough here, but Rabin may like this approach. It does not demand that Rabin perform a massive surgery at once. He does not have to remove too many settlements immediately. It allows him to maintain an Israeli military presence on the Golan in the first stages, and study the Syrian intentions, in return for nonbelligerency on the Syrian part—though not a real agreement. Rabin can appear before the Israelis and tell them that he has scored a political achievement on the Syrian front. There is doubt, however, whether those opposing the removal of settlements would feel relieved by the fact that the surgery is slow. They will give him a hard time not only over a single big removal, but for many small ones. It will be an ongoing trauma.

The biggest shortcoming is in the third component—peace. In this approach, the agreement between Syria and Israel does not stand on its own two feet. Al-Asad is making it conditional on an arrangement with the Arab partners and the Palestinians. In principle, al-Asad is correct in believing that an agreement to which everyone is a partner is better and safer, but this condition is dangerous. It turns the peace between Syria and Israel into a hostage in the hands of Arab extremists. At a time when the power of the Middle East fundamentalists is rising, it is a dangerous tactic. I believe that al-Asad may be persuaded to change his mind on this particular issue.

Could this crack enable progress in the negotiations? A lot will depend on the manner in which the Americans

manage them behind the scenes. If both sides are sincere in their intentions to attain and guard peace, it should not be too difficult to find a method through which they would be able to work out the shape of the last stage of the agreement. The same applies to withdrawal, the nature of peace, and the timetable of these two components.

Poll on Government Security Policy

TA1003124893 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in
Hebrew 10 Mar 93 p 6

[Report by military correspondent Dani Sade]

[Text] Larger numbers of Israelis regard government policy in the territories as being "too soft" and are deeply concerned about personal safety. These are some of the findings of a new survey conducted by the Institute for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University.

The poll, conducted in the first half of January 1993, was aimed at finding out what the public thinks about national security. It was conducted among a sample representing the adult population of Israel, but did not include members of Israeli kibbutzim and settlers in the territories.

Most of the interviewees replied that they are very interested in peace, but were divided over the extent to which the Arabs are interested in peace. Their concept of Arab aspirations remains hostile and negative. Nevertheless, there seems to be a greater chance of peace than at any other time since the Gulf war.

On the peace process: 89 percent replied that they fully support the continuation of the process; 36 percent said that in their view the Arabs aspire in the final analysis to the destruction of the State of Israel. This compares with 50 percent who thought so in 1991, and 30 percent in 1992.

In reference to the talks with the Palestinians, 69 percent said that autonomy has to be discussed with the Palestinians; 43 percent agreed to discuss with the Palestinians the evacuation of Jewish settlements; 30 percent agreed to discuss with the Palestinian delegation the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Asked about the return of the Golan Heights in exchange for peace with Syria and the demilitarization of the area from which Israel withdraws, as well as security arrangements, 46 percent said they are not prepared to give up any part of the heights, compared to 49 percent who said that in the 1992 poll. Some 33 percent said they are ready to return a small part of the Golan Heights; 15 percent said they are ready to return a large section; only 6 percent are prepared to give back the entire plateau.

Some 85 percent said that they are concerned about the possibility of being harmed by Arabs while going about their daily lives. Most of the respondents believe that the uprising and terrorism can be uprooted through military actions. Most believe that government policy to maintain quiet in the territories is too soft.

Industrial Investments Approved for Ma'ale Efrayim

TA0803115993 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 8 Mar 93 p 21

[Report by Roni Hasid]

[Excerpt] The Investment Center yesterday approved the investment of 5.7 million shekels in Ma'ale Efrayim's industrial zone: 2.5 million shekels to build a plant that will manufacture equipment to process sewage containing toxic materials and which will employ 70 workers, and 3.2 million shekels to expand the Yerushalmi plant, which manufactures rope and wire, thereby creating 20 additional jobs.

Investment Center Director Moshe Dovrat noted that, according to the government's decision, several areas in Judaea and Samaria—such as the 'Etzyon Bloc, Mishor Adumim, the Jordan Valley, and Ma'ale Efrayim—remain Class A development areas. He noted that hardly any investments have been approved in those areas in the past six months because the budget to help industries in Judaea and Samaria for 1992 had been depleted and that the new investments come from the 1993 budget, which has recently been received. [passage omitted]

Sarid: Nuclear Reactors 'Totally Safe'

TA0903182993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Environment Minister Yosi Sarid said in the Knesset that both of Israel's nuclear reactors were totally safe despite their advanced age. Sarid added that the Nuclear Research Center's radioactive waste disposal site operated under the supervision of a committee appointed by the prime minister. The minister asserted that to date there had been no radioactive leaks from the site.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Environment Minister Sarid was responding to a motion to the agenda by Knesset Member Beni Temkin. The minister stressed his intention to share information on radioactive materials with the public, because he felt that the public should have access to any unrestricted data.

IDF Field Rations To Be Sent to Bosnia

TA0403104893 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 4 Mar 93 p 19

[Report by Ron Ben-Yishay in Washington]

[Excerpt] Israel will dispatch 5,000 IDF [Israel Defense Forces] field rations to Bosnia in the coming days. The shipment, to be sent via Italy, will be made up of 1,000 cartons, each containing three basic meals for five people.

Israel is thereby acceding to a U.S. request to various countries to extend humanitarian aid to the Muslims in Bosnia. The Americans will not drop the Israeli rations from the air but send them by land in United Nations convoys. [passage omitted]

Scientific Agreement Signed With Russia

TA0403060093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Israel and the Russian Federation have signed a scientific cooperation agreement in the fields of biotechnology, space, energy, and agriculture. The accord was signed yesterday in Jerusalem by Israel's minister of science and technology, Shim'on Shetrit, and the Russian deputy prime minister and minister of science, Boris Saltykov. Professor Saltykov told reporter Jack Katzenell Russia already has impressive achievements in basic research but needs Israeli expertise in turning this into marketable products.

[Begin recording] [Saltykov] Almost in every field of our technology we have good results of the theoretical stage. Sometimes we need the results of the second stage. We need some designers, we need some people from business, but almost in every field of high tech on the theoretical stage we have some results.

[Katzenell] Is there any truth in the report which we received from Moscow that a Soviet company has signed a contract with an Israeli company and the Soviet company wants to build a nuclear power plant which would be floating off the Israeli coast and would be for the purpose of desalination?

[Saltykov] Occasionally, we discuss such a problem on a theoretical level with ministers, but I really don't know about contracts. But we in Russia have the installation for such an activity. In the Caspian sea, we have all along working installations during 20 years, but you know, it is a very emotional point when we are concerned about atomic energy. I really don't know that some firm signed a contract because, of course, we need a political decision in such an emotional and very hot point of relationship. [end recording]

Government Receives U.S.-Russian Invitation to Peace Talks

JN1003125093 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] The Jordanian Government today received an invitation from the United States and the Russian Federation to take part in the ninth round of bilateral negotiations to be held in Washington between 20 April and 6 May.

The Foreign Minister received the invitation from the Russian ambassador and the U.S. charge d'affaires in Amman when he received them this morning. They also conveyed to the minister the dates of the meetings to be held by the working groups stemming from the multilateral negotiations.

'Abd-al-Majali on Talks, Other Issues

TA0903165793 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 9 Mar 93 p 2

[By special AL-QUDS correspondent]

[Excerpts] Amman—Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian negotiating delegation in the peace process with Israel, expects the conference of the Arab foreign ministers participating in the peace process to be postponed until after 'Id al-Fitr.

In an exclusive interview with AL-QUDS, Dr. al-Majali said that over one month remains until the beginning of the ninth round, and this is sufficient time to resolve the problem of the Palestinian deportees in Marj al-Zuhur. The Israeli authorities are now reviewing and reassessing this problem and the courts are still looking into the deportee issue. All matters relating to this problem, which Dr. al-Majali described as complex, will be reviewed.

Dr. al-Majali added that a solution to this problem must satisfy the Palestinian side, which is the basis of the peace process, because the core of the Middle East problem is the Palestinian problem. If the deportee issue is not resolved, the Palestinians will not be able to go to the talks, and if the Palestinians do not go, Jordan will not go either, as his majesty King Husayn said at the beginning of this week. [passage omitted]

Dr. al-Majali stressed the need to return to the negotiating table since there is no alternative to negotiations. He affirmed the need of solving the deportee issue either by a collective repatriation of the deportees or by any other way that might satisfy the Palestinians. [passage omitted]

Arms Cache Seized; Links With Iran Alleged

PM1003115093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Mar 93 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Jordanian Authorities Seize Arms Belonging to an Organization With Iranian Links"]

[Excerpt] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—According to Arab diplomatic sources, the security authorities in Jordan some days ago seized an arms cache belonging to an organization believed to have links with Iran, but they did not say whether that organization is a local Jordanian organization or one of the Palestinian factions loyal to Tehran and constituting a part of the organizations opposed to the peace process.

The sources said that following the discovery of these arms, the Jordanian security authorities launched an arrest campaign. They added that the authorities may make this matter public after completion of the investigations and the follow-up procedure.

Some circles link this development in Jordan to the mounting campaign by factions opposed to the Arab parties' joining the Middle East peace process. The campaign was launched in the wake of reports about meetings held recently in Tehran by representatives of these factions.

It should be recalled that the Jordanian authorities arrested a number of Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) officials and members about four months ago as a precautionary measure against possible operations against Israel from Jordanian territory, but they were later released without charges. [passage omitted]

Egyptian Counselor To Arrive Today en Route to Baghdad

JN1003084593 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 10 Mar pp 1, 14

[Text] Rida 'Abd-al-Karim, counselor at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, will arrive in Amman today en route to Baghdad to head the mission looking after Egyptian interests in Iraq.

Wajih Hamdi, Egyptian ambassador in Amman, said that 'Abd-al-Karim will be in charge of the mission to look after the large number of Egyptians still working in Iraq.

The Indian Embassy in Baghdad has been looking after Egyptian interests since the Egyptian Embassy was closed in 1990. The Egyptian ambassador said that the interests section will remain under the supervision of the Indian Embassy after the arrival of 'Abd-al-Karim. He added that Egypt had sent administrative employees last year to prepare for the counselor's arrival. The ambassador affirmed that the purpose is to look after Egyptian nationals, and not upgrade diplomatic representation at present.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa recently said the Egyptian Government is planning to upgrade diplomatic representation between Egypt and Iraq following contacts between Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn through the mediation of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, who visited Baghdad and Cairo to approximate views and break the stalemate between the two countries.

10 March 1993

Cabinet Reshuffle Expected After 'Id al-Fitr*TA0903141593 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic**9 Mar 93 p 1*

[Text] AL-FAJR has learned that Jordanian Prime Minister al- Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir will reshuffle his cabinet

after 'Id al-Fitr. Mr. Tahir al-Masri has been sounded out for the post of deputy prime minister and foreign minister. Mr. 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, Jordan's UN delegate, will also be replaced upon his own request so that he can devote his time to political activity in preparation for the upcoming parliamentary campaign in September.

Buwayz Receives Invitation to Peace Talks

NC1003173193 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630
GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz received from U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker and Russian Ambassador Gennadiy Ilichev an invitation to Lebanon to attend the ninth round of the Arab-Israeli peace talks due to be held in Washington in April.

Al-Hariri Says Country 'Abandoned', Praises Syria

NC1003162893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400
GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri said the whole world has abandoned Lebanon, and that only Syria is helping the country. In a statement to the French newspaper LE FIGARO, al-Hariri said Lebanon cannot ask the Syrians to leave because the Lebanese Army and the internal security forces are not adequately equipped to take over. Al-Hariri said the Lebanese war ended without a winner or a loser and that some time is needed before things return to their normal, pre-1975 status.

The prime minister said the Lebanese Government has drafted a program to reform public administrations. He said former militia leaders, such as Walid Junblatt and Nabih Birri, want to purge the public administration and are happy to be involved in this process.

When told by the paper's correspondent that Israel is blaming him for not disarming Hizballah, which Israel considers a terrorist organization, al-Hariri said: Israel is talking about Hizballah, but I am talking about resistance. Hizballah is only one of resistance forces, such as Amal Movement and the ordinary Lebanese citizens. Al-Hariri asked: Would France, for instance, accede to demands to disarm the fighters resisting occupation of its territory?

Foreign Ministry Official Reportedly Resigns

NC1003132593 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] The Cabinet met under Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri today. Ministers Walid Junblatt and Marwan Hamadah did not attend. Minister Sulayman Franjiyah attended the session for the first time. The Cabinet discussed developments and a routine agenda, including the resignation of Suhayl Shammās, secretary general of the Foreign Ministry.

Informed political sources revealed today that Ambassador Suhayl Shammās had come under increasing pressure from Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and loyal employees and ambassadors. The sources said the pressure recently increased to the point where the working paper prepared as the basis for negotiations with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher was formulated by several of these employees under Buwayz' supervision

and without the secretary general's knowledge. Attempts were made to exclude Amb. Shammās and marginalize his role, which dismayed him and prompted him to resign. The sources said that the recent move preceded by a series of others by Buwayz against Shammās led to the resignation.

Shammās and Buwayz differed on several issues relating to the negotiations and the Palestinian deportees issue; Shammās believed in upholding Lebanon's official stance, while Buwayz—following the U.S.-Israeli deal on the deportees—declared that the deal marked a positive start. This stance was amended. The same sources added that Buwayz was dismayed by Shammās' stand, particularly during the visit to Egypt in the company of the prime minister, a visit from which Minister Buwayz was excluded. The political sources said contacts were held with Shammās in the past few hours but their outcome is not clear.

Defense Minister Discusses Israeli Goals

NC1003080593 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610
GMT 10 Mar 93

[Telephone interview with Lebanese Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul, in Beirut, by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd, in Cairo, carried on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-al-Majd] We have Muhsin Dallul, Lebanese defense minister and acting information minister, on the line. Welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Dallul] Thank you and thanks to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Abu-al-Majd] Please give the Arab listener an idea of the latest developments in south Lebanon, particularly the recent heavy shelling by Israeli forces.

[Dallul] Through Israel, we have become accustomed to the idea that whenever the negotiations are about to resume or there is progress on the deportees issue, it resorts to undermining these positive moves through barbaric and savage shelling of the peaceful people in the south using various weapons. So, after U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher toured, made statements that the negotiations will resume in April, and hinted that a solution must be found to the deportees problem, Israel resorted to shelling with various weapons and for the first time used long-range guns and large-caliber field guns. Naturally, we adopted various precautionary measures and went on the alert to confront the aggression, which destroyed houses and harmed citizens, including innocent children and old people.

[Abu-al-Majd] What are the most important measures you have adopted to confront these Israeli actions?

[Dallul] We cannot confront Israel militarily. But we confront it through our willpower to stand fast and encourage citizens to do the same against the aggression and to stay on their land and in their villages and houses.

We see this as our primary task. We increased our aid to residents whose houses are damaged. We have explained through the media and in direct contacts with key figures, Israel's scheme to displace the people and destroy any chance of a peaceful solution in the area. The response was great. Lebanese Army forces are on the alert and are always ready to respond to the sources of fire, which is directed at Army positions or civilians.

[Abu-al-Majd] Minister, you said that before the start of every round of negotiations or when progress is made on any of the peace fronts, Israel seeks to stir up trouble, particularly in south Lebanon and inside the occupied Arab territories. What are the objectives behind all these Israeli actions?

[Dallul] Israel wants to squeeze the Arab states and the United States. It wants to impose the peace it wants and that serves its interests and plans. It does not want a peace that serves security in the region and coexistence. It wants a peace that will primarily serve its own interests. This is clear in its plans and methodology, which are no longer a secret to anyone.

[Abu-al-Majd] Minister, Lebanon will reportedly attend the next round of negotiations in April. But the deportees issue has not been resolved and they remain on Lebanese territory. What is the solution to this problem facing you and the negotiations?

[Dallul] We have not decided whether we will attend the next round of talks. The decision will be made by the Arab cordons states. We will not deviate from the Arab cordons states' decisions. If they agree to attend, we will attend. If they boycott the talks, we will also boycott them. We are part of this group and our decision is part of the group decision.

[Abu-al-Majd] Minister, when will the Lebanese Army be able to repulse the continuing Israeli aggression against south Lebanon?

[Dallul] This depends on the aid that we expect or anticipate from our able Arab brothers. The Lebanese Army with its limited resources cannot confront the Israeli war machine. But if we get the aid, we can frustrate and hamper its schemes. It is heresy and senseless to say that Lebanon can stand alone against the Israeli Army. But we can make the Israeli Army think very carefully before embarking on an attack, knowing that it will pay dear.

[Abu-al-Majd] Does the Syrian Army help you, Minister?

[Dallul] It has always stood by us. It has stood by us in every stage and every field. It is almost the only country to offer us unlimited military and political support.

[Abu-al-Majd] Minister, what is the extent of cooperation between Egypt and Lebanon and what are your hopes for the future?

[Dallul] We maintain the best of relations with Egypt in every field. I recently received a message from the Egyptian defense minister in which he offered donations to the Lebanese Army. The Lebanese Council of Ministers will thank the Egyptian Government and Defense Ministry for this generosity. We have great hopes in the Egyptian Army. We hope Egypt will give to us or that we will give to Egypt. We are in the same trench and are linked by close historic ties. We have the same destiny and goal. So we attach great importance to Egyptian support and aid and to the brotherhood that links us.

[Abu-al-Majd] Brother Arabs, at the end of this dialogue we thank you and Lebanese Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul. Thank you Minister.

[Dallul] Thank you.

Writer Ridicules Accusations Against Arabs

NC0903130093 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 6 Mar 93 p 1

["On the Road" column by Talal Salman: "The Arab Murderer of New York"]

[Text] Whoever abandons his dreams loses his life.

Whoever denies his history cannot be protected by censorship. And fleeing his past will not bring him forgiveness.

You are who you are or you become what you are meant to be. You become the criminal, while you are the victim. According to the American image of the Arab after the New York World Trade Center explosion, you become the defendant and the one sentenced to death because you are the criminal, while blood flows from your innumerable wounds to cover the area all the way to the Security Council.

Animosity is two-sided: If one side drops it while the other clings to it, the result will not be peace or reconciliation, but denying oneself by treachery, not by changing the nature of the enemy.

When the Arab shed his skin and declared his surrender to his pan-Arab enemy and to the American master who constantly antagonized him and tightened the belt around his waist until Israel overpowered him, the new world order did not honor him with membership. It did not even recognize his human rights. He continues to be condemned and wanted for international terrorism, killing women and children, and causing chaos in the civilized world.

The Arab has now become the ready-made defendant, even the ready-made criminal on whom one can pin any crime anywhere.

He is the murderer first; then we find the crime to pin on him.

Everyone on earth is an angel; there is one devil who spreads corruption, the Arab. The ugly American no

longer exists. The Central Intelligence Agency has repented. The Shin Bet and Israeli Mosad have been categorized among the pure. Even the KGB has been cleared of its crimes and blamed the Arabs for everything that has happened, is happening, and will happen, such as mass murder, shelling, kidnapping, and bombing worldwide.

Had it not been for certain reservations, some dark-skinned Arab and Middle Eastern organizations would have been blamed for the terrible Los Angeles riots.

The responsibility of the Arabs for the destruction Hurricane Andrew wreaked in beautiful Florida and other American resorts was dismissed only because of confusion. (But the exaggerated Kuwaiti generosity raised many doubts about the responsibility of the Arabs in that terrible hurricane).

Let us contemplate the map of blood in the Arab world and its logical extensions abroad.

In Algeria, Muslim soldiers are racing Islamist citizens to commit murder. One group kills five of the other and the other group kills 10 of the first.

Tunisia has a bloody atmosphere and every Islamist is a criminal. So he is wanted dead until he denies his belief in Islam.

In Egypt, the desert overflows with the blood of those killed by criminals who themselves are wanted for crimes. The competition goes on and each side attempts to convince the Americans that it is the more trustworthy one, because it is bloodier and less merciful with the people.

As for Sudan, its people and Army are under siege and condemned. The pope interferes personally and impetuously to evaluate the civil war there by stamping it with the character of a religious war. Every Muslim Sudanese is categorized as a murderer of his fellow Sudanese and is also likely to be killed himself even outside his country.

In Palestine, the image of the struggle for human rights, including the right of the Palestinian to his land, is being distorted. It is being turned into terrorism; men are uprooted from their homes and families and dumped outside under freezing conditions because they are considered murderers and aggressors. The Americans justify Israeli "justice" before the Security Council to stop its resolution on their return to their occupied homeland.

As for the Iraqi, anything can be said about him without embarrassment. The world will believe any accusation against him.

There is no need to expand on the terrorism of the Lebanese, which is backed by Syrian terrorism, which in turn is backed by Iranian terrorism, thus enabling it to become internationalized. This is a well-known and essential fact denied by none.

So every Arab is a terrorist until proven otherwise. But this cannot be proven. The judge is the prosecutor general, the lawyer, the victim, and the witness at the same time. The crime is decided upon, the sentence is predetermined, and the discussion revolves around the timing of the announcement of the sentence.

In a quiet review of the bad security scenario surrounding the explosion at the World Trade Center in New York, it becomes clear how easy, natural, and logical it is to accuse an Arab, any Arab, of this crime without the need for any proof, evidence, or witnesses.

He is an Arab and whether he is Egyptian, Palestinian, or Algerian is immaterial. He is an Arab and so a Muslim; the condition that he is an Islamist is not necessary. He is a Muslim Arab, so he must be a criminal.

His name, looks, legal record, or political affiliations are immaterial. They only want the name. He alone is the charge and the crime. One can make up anything with the name, especially when the regime concerned, whether Egyptian, Algerian, or Palestinian, is ready to play the role of witness, of informer or guide free and without punishment or reward.

The Egyptian (Algerian or Palestinian etc.) Islamist is wanted by his own regime. He is condemned and hunted down by bullets in Cairo (or Algiers). Just think what it is like when Washington wants him or alleges he is the killer.

In this case, Washington becomes the honest ally of the regime concerned and helps it to get rid of its "enemies" who conspire against it and deprive it of a prosperous life under the protective wing of the American master.

Through the New York explosion, Washington is revealed as the one killing us with our own hands.

It raises all sorts of doubts to increase American and international revenge against Arabs in general. It then leaves it up to the Arab regimes to pin accusations of murder on their own citizens.

So the Arab is condemned by his own ruler, who will become weaker and more subservient to his American master, who tolerates some of the results of his failure.

The Arab is killed and the sword is kept hanging over the head of his ruler. The killer is killed and the victim is a killer.

New York is the city of crime, the Mafia, and organized gangsters that are stronger than armies. It is the jungle where one cannot move without fearing for his life. New York is the capital of the Jews with all their perversions, including politics, sex, media, forgery, cinema, drugs, and money laundering. It is the greatest arena for crime, most terrible fortress of discrimination, and ugliest example of class and race oppression. This New York knew nothing about crime and blood until this group of

dark-skinned and red-eyed Arabs got there, carrying explosives and throwing them in every district to quench their thirst for blood.

May God kill the Arabs; they have profaned the Eden of the American system in the capital of human rights!

Over and above all this, they categorize themselves as victims.

Take them to their rulers and to their miserable fate.

U.S. Media Said to Wage 'War' on Islam, Muslims

NC1003093793 *Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic* 0630 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Station commentary: "Media Terrorism"]

[Text] When accusations are made indiscriminately without evidence, they form nothing more than a kind of psychological terrorism used by media. The terrorism the media use can be extremely diverse. All Muslims have become suspects in the explosion in New York. The Muslim nation and all its people stand accused of the incident and of being behind the explosion, yet there isn't one piece of evidence that any Muslims, even those detained pending interrogation, are involved.

It is not easy to incite public opinion against a group or sector of society. It compares with a frank call for struggle, violence, and condemnation, which is what U.S. media are doing to the Muslim community in the United States. Perhaps they want to kick this community out or at least clamp down on it. Perhaps signs and evidence are required that could be used to justify the tightening of the rope around the Muslim community. The issue was open to discussion even before the explosion on Wall Street.

The issue has long been under discussion. The Muslims and Islamists in the United States are active and civilized; they carry out various activities, all of which are, of course, legal and legitimate. They make use of the margin of freedom available there. Perhaps this is not a problem when it comes to other groups, such as the Chinese and Japanese.

But the Jewish community is the one that harbors the greatest hostility toward Muslims; it does not hide its grudges and it fears the Muslim community in the United States gaining such influence as to form public opinion. As for any information revealed during the interrogation, there is no doubt that the implication of Muslims in the explosion was preplanned. It is easy to link talk about the residence of Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, the activities of Hamas members, and those of Islamic communities and societies with vile American and Zionist attempts to isolate the Islamic community and make it one rejected by society after accusing it of terrorism.

It is not enough for U.S. President Bill Clinton to say he does not want to direct any charges before there is evidence. This is not enough to convince us that the official U.S. stance is not involved in the open war against the Muslims and Islam. The declared war has many objectives and scope. The U.S. Administration bears the burden of having the Muslims in the United States practice the rights and freedoms to which they are entitled. Washington cannot ban any of the cultural, social, or other activities. So there must be other ways and means to restrict the Muslims and annihilate their right of expression and movement.

Harming the Islamists and the Muslims in general is something seen throughout the West. It uses incidents and so on as evidence, even as a springboard, for a declared war, the intention behind which is to destroy the Islamic presence and prevent it from spreading. It is the war in which the West does not openly use its ugly claws. It is the war of the media and their silk gloves. It is a war that cannot be described as one of terrorism, because there are no explosions or bullets. But it does have all the incitement, unfairness, contempt, and mendacity to help destroy the structure of Islamic existence, communities, and pillars.

It is not a remote possibility that this existence might become a target for extremist and fanatical forces. Then, there could be no doubt that media terrorism is the ugliest form of terrorism. If the Wall Street explosion killed five people, the campaign against the Muslims kills all of them when it turns them into a group of extremist and homeless scoundrels looking for life in the tragedies of others. It is the war that the official U.S. institution presents, backed by oppressive Zionism. Unfortunately, some of the region's reckless leaders also participate in this war.

Islamic Ulema Leaders on Syrian, Iranian Ties

NC0603111893 *Tehran KEYHAN in Persian* 24 Feb 93
p 16

[Interview with Shaykh Isma'il Khaliq and Shaykh Mahir Hammud, prominent Lebanese ulema, by unidentified KEYHAN correspondent in Tehran; date not given]

[Excerpts] [KEYHAN] What is the current situation in the Lebanon?

[Khaliq] The United States and its affiliated regimes in the region have decided that the issue of Lebanon should be separated from that of Palestine because the United States has been unable to find a solution to the Palestinian question. It is now trying to resolve the issue of Lebanon in the same manner it sought to solve Egypt's problem with Israel and is now attempting to solve Jordan's problem with Israel. This U.S. plan was devised at the al-Ta'if conference.

Rafiq al-Hariri represents the United States and its interests, which had earlier invested a great deal in the

region, and has now taken over as the Lebanese prime minister. In addition, the ministers in the Lebanese cabinet who have foreign affiliations cannot make independent decisions. Because of this, the entry of the Hizballah deputies and Islamic groups in the Lebanese parliament has been a successful and effective measure. Their incorporation into the Lebanese cabinet can have a beneficial effect as well and we hope they will achieve greater success in future. [passage omitted]

[KEYHAN] Was there any controversy over the participation of the Hizballah party in the Lebanese elections?

[Khaliq] Of course, it is natural that the Hizballah, in its capacity as an Islamic institution, should have a council and the majority opinion was respected. There is no reason, however, that members of the council should always hold unanimous opinions.

[KEYHAN] What kind of activities does the Islamic Ulema engage in and did you nominate any candidate for the elections?

[Khaliq] The Islamic Ulema is not a political party and does not intend to operate as one. It is a scholarly movement aimed at fostering growth, progress, unity and coordination among the Muslims of Lebanon. The movement is also striving to attain unity among the Shiite and Sunni ulema.

One of the main achievements of the Ulema was the staging of a massive march which foiled the 17 June agreement between Lebanon and the Zionist regime. In that march, some were martyred and wounded as well. [passage omitted]

[KEYHAN] Does the resistance continue in southern Lebanon?

[Khaliq] Fortunately, the Syrian government and Hafiz al-Asad accept that the resistance should continue. This is very important. Syria is undergoing much economic and political pressure currently. Fortunately, the Syrians believe that the resistance forces, the Hizballah, and the Islamic resistance should continue their task ceaselessly. [passage omitted]

[KEYHAN] What kind of relations do the Druze have with the Islamic movements?

[Khaliq] Relations with the Druze are quite harmonious and the Druze leader Walid Junblatt has a positive perspective on the Islamic Revolution. Our group has cordial relations with the Druze ulema.

[KEYHAN] How do you see the current Lebanese situation?

[Hammud] The entire Middle East is in a state of anticipation. Everyone is awaiting the outcome of the peace process. They are also awaiting the return of the Palestinian deportees. It is natural that Lebanon should be gripped by the same sense of anticipation.

The distinctive feature of Lebanon is that it is considered an open arena for conflict and tussle by all forces. At present, this conflict and tussle is more political and moral, rather than military as in the past. [passage omitted]

The Islamic movement is very strong in Lebanon and its demands and aspirations are clear. The movement seeks to increase the resistance in order to liberate the occupied border strip and to establish security in the country in a manner which satisfies all the sides involved. [passage omitted]

[KEYHAN] Did the victory of the Islamic trend in the parliamentary elections bring about any change in the political situation?

[Hammud] At least this victory confirmed that the Islamic movement is a popular one and has many supporters. It also proved that with better political conditions even more brilliant victories could have been attained. [passage omitted]

[KEYHAN] How do you justify the presence of Syria?

[Hammud] At present, Syria is endowed with a strong presence on the Lebanese scene and I do not consider this presence detrimental to the interests of the Muslims.

[KEYHAN] Didn't the al-Ta'if conference stress the departure of Syrian forces?

[Hammud] Yes, that departure will be a military one but the political and moral support of Syria will continue. In fact, if the Syrian soldiers depart, Syria's role will become even stronger. Unless of course, the Syrians themselves adopt a weaker position, that would be an entirely different matter. Certain regional and geographical factors have been instrumental in boosting Syria's role.

[KEYHAN] Will not the departure of the Syrian soldiers result in the Christians regaining strength?

[Hammud] There is great discord among the Christians now and even if they wish to revive their former role, it will take them many years. [passage omitted]

[KEYHAN] Are the Muslims in a position of weakness?

[Hammud] No. They are not in a weak position, but the departure of the Syrian forces will cause disruption and disarray.

[KEYHAN] You said the Christians are in a state of discord.

[Hammud] That is true but the departure of the Syrian forces will totally disrupt the present situation. [passage omitted]

[KEYHAN] How do you view the role of the Islamic Republic of Iran?

[Hammud] The role of the Islamic Republic of Iran is very important, but it is not as extensive as the Syrian role. First of all, Iran's relations are with the Islamic movements and trends, while Syria has strong relations with all the trends and movements. Second, the geographical factor has made Syrian presence stronger. And third, relations between Iran and Lebanon are geographically linked by way of Damascus.

[KEYHAN] What is the role of the Islamic Ulama in Lebanon?

[Hammud] The Islamic Ulama grouping is an Islamic force which is respected by all and cooperates with the present Islamic movements in its political and theological activities.

[KEYHAN] Now that you are in Iran, what is your assessment of the Islamic Revolution?

[Hammud] The Islamic Republic of Iran is traversing its path onto higher levels with each passing year. At present, the Third world countries, especially in Africa, consider Iran an important option. The Zimbabwean President Mugabe stated that the Third world attaches great importance to Iran. Currently, most countries consider Iran an important choice and a country of great importance.

Bomb Thrown at Kuwaiti Embassy 9 Mar; No Damage

NC1003071693 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] A security source said a stun bomb was thrown from a car as it passed the Kuwaiti Embassy in Bi'r Hasan last night. The bomb exploded but did not cause any damage or injuries. Security forces immediately took measures to arrest the perpetrator.

Towns Shelled, Areas Declared 'Military Region'

NC0803085593 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Zionist aggression and oppressive practices against citizens continued in the south yesterday. A Zionist intelligence patrol erected a roadblock in the town of Arnun, near Qal'at al-Shaqif, checking the identities of residents and travelers for two hours. Minutes after the withdrawal of the patrol, enemy artillery shelled the region and the surroundings of Kafr Tibnit.

Earlier, a Zionist force of seven vehicles and about 20 soldiers entered Mazra'at Burghuz, al-Surayrah, and Marj al-Khawkh in Hasbayya district, declaring the towns a military region and barring entry to and departure from them. The south's airspace was the scene of enemy sorties by low-flying aircraft. The occupation artillery also targeted the Iqlim al-Tuffah hills and there was intense raking of the region by machine guns.

The follow-up committee to support the cause of Lebanese prisoners in Israeli jails called on prisoners' families to join a sit-in at the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross next Friday.

Israeli Flights, Shelling Reported in South

NC0903193193 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] The al-Litani River basin and the outskirts of Zawtar al-Gharbiyah and Zawtar al-Sharqiyah towns came under intermittent shelling from Israeli positions on the 'Alman and al-Shumariyah hills shortly after 1930 today.

Israeli warplanes overflew al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas just after 2000, dropping flares.

PLO's Qaddumi Holds Talks With al-Shar'

JN0903171893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Damascus—An official round of talks was held here today between a Syrian delegation led by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and a Palestinian party under Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department. Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, also attended the talks.

On the Syrian Arab side, the talks were attended by Taha al-Khayrat, director of the Arab Homeland Department. Attending on the Palestinian side were Muhammad Ghunaym, Fatah Movement Central Committee member, and Mahmud al-Khalidi, the PLO's representative in Damascus. Talks during the meeting centered on developments in the region. They also assessed developments in the peace process and the deportee issue in light of the results of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region.

The two sides agreed to continue contacts with other parties involved in the peace process to arrange a coordination meeting of foreign ministers in Damascus after the happy 'Id al-Fitr [22-25 March].

Says Talks Participation Suspended

JN0903184993 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Sana' al-Imam dispatch from Damascus]

[Excerpts] A round of official talks was held at noon today between Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. [passage omitted]

In a statement to Monte Carlo, Faruq Qaddumi said that Palestinian participation in the next round of talks depends on Israel's commitment to the principles of the peace process as well as on American clarifications, particularly after the deadlock in the last round of peace talks. He added that Palestinian participation is suspended until the necessary measures are taken to resolve all problems. He stressed the need for finding a complete and comprehensive solution to the problem of the Palestinian deportees and for the immediate implementation of Resolution 799.

Qaddumi refused to follow Nayif Hawatimah [leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine] in accusing Saudi Arabia and Morocco of partitioning Resolution 799. He noted that the PLO believes that Israel is the only party that can be accused of this.

Qaddumi stressed that the deportees are part of the Palestinian people and that the PLO deals with them from this approach, regardless of their political affiliation.

Asked if he has discussed a visit to Syria by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, Qaddumi said that this falls

within the framework of bilateral relations and that one of the objectives of his visit is to decide the future of bilateral relations, coordination, and cooperation.

Meets Vice President Khaddam

JN1003164493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, at 1300 today. The meeting was attended by Muhammad Ghunaym, member of the Fatah Central Committee, and Mahmud al-Khalidi, head of the PLO office in Damascus.

Discussion during the meeting dealt with the Arab situation and recent developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Al-Shar' Receives Peace Talks Invitation

JN1003163993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1620 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received in his office today U.S. Ambassador in Damascus Christopher Ross and Russian Ambassador in Damascus Aleksandr Zotov. Al-Shar' received from both ambassadors an American-Russian invitation to convene the ninth round of bilateral peace talks in Washington on 20 April.

The foreign minister informed the U.S. and Russian ambassadors that the response to this invitation will be decided during the meeting of foreign ministers of the Arab parties involved in the peace process, which will be held in Damascus after 'Id al-Fitr [22-25 March].

Talks Said 'Useless' Unless Israel Changes Stand

JN1003082693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 10 Mar 93

[From the press review]

[Text] In an article today, AL-BA'TH says: It is not important whether the peace talks resume next month or the month after. Although time plays a crucial role in the peace process, it remains wasted if Israel does not change its intransigent stand.

AL-BA'TH asserts that what is more important than fixing a date is setting the stage to restore the substance of the peace process; namely, land for peace, and not allowing Israel to participate only to absorb international pressure, try to derail the peace process, and blow up its very foundations.

AL-BA'TH notes the eight previous rounds during which the Israeli negotiators maneuvered not to allow the peace process to advance. Then came the U.S. presidential elections when the talks were suspended pending the outcome of these elections.

AL-BA'TH adds: The new U.S. Administration declared its commitment to the peace process and dispatched Secretary of State Warren Christopher on an exploratory tour to the Middle East. Information is also leaking that invitations will be addressed shortly to the concerned parties to attend the ninth round. This coincides with Rabin's visit to Washington.

AL-BA'TH wonders: Will addressing the invitations be enough to correct the course of the peace process, which has not been possible because of Israel's terrorist practices in the occupied territories. We will not prejudice matters. However, we assert that what Christopher heard gave him a good idea. The most important thing he heard was in Damascus, which has always been concerned for a just, comprehensive solution.

AL-THAWRAH asserts that the Arabs' commitment to the peace process, their implementation of UN resolutions, and their submission to international legitimacy leave Israeli sensitivities isolated in the face of world public opinion and the forces which claim responsibility for enforcing international resolutions, and particularly those who launched the peace initiative.

AL-THAWRAH says that Arab commitment knows no weakness in the face of Israeli arrogance, which has exceeded all limits in its challenge to the will of the international community and international legitimacy, and even the United States, which has so far not seriously pressured Israel to make it comply with the U.S. initiative, on which the peace process is based and which advocates land for peace.

AL-THAWRAH notes that after approximately 16 months since the opening of the Madrid peace conference, Israel has not only evaded the essence of peace, but also created more obstacles in the way of this process, which has still not made any progress for over a year, during which the Israeli negotiating team did not utter the word withdrawal. If they happened to mention the word, they only meant a partial withdrawal and separate settlement and solutions removed from the essence of the entire process.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Israel's practices against Arab citizens have become more barbaric and terroristic. The deportation of 415 Palestinians created a fresh obstacle to the peace process. This is in addition to creating tension in southern Lebanon through aggressive escalation, as well as in the occupied West Bank and Gaza. This makes the resumption of the talks a difficult, almost useless, endeavor.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: By stepping up terrorism and aggression, Israel aims at embarrassing those who will go to the talks, trying to show that they are going unwillingly, and scoring points psychologically. Moreover, not implementing Resolution 799 casts doubts on Israel's seriousness about implementing Resolutions 242 and 338.

AL-THAWRAH adds that the very act of deportation is a challenge to the world community and its legitimate authority, and to the Arabs taking part in the peace process. This can never be accepted. Will Washington realize this fact and work to remove this Israeli obstacle to pave the way for peace?

Israel Said To Be Escalating Repression

JN1003100493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: How is Israel these days translating its alleged concern for the resumption of the peace process? Not much thought is required to answer this question. There are clear examples and proof. It is difficult to list them all, but it is easy to mention a few.

Israel is adhering to its deportation policy, its siege and curfew in the Gaza Strip, its war of starvation, demolishing or sealing off houses, opening fire in reply to stone throwing, intensifying its military presence in the occupied territories, giving settlers a free hand to terrorize the Palestinians, and other such practices.

This effective translation of Israeli concern for resuming the peace process is increasing daily with the approach of the date proposed by the peace conference cosponsors for the resumption of the peace talks next April.

Against the backdrop of this Israeli repression and coercion, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is preparing to leave for Washington carrying hot and important dossiers on issues which he wants to discuss. The last of these dossiers, as is clear from what the Israeli press is publishing, is the peace dossier. Before that dossier comes the dossier on the Israeli-U.S. military cooperation, plus the dossier on the amount of next year's U.S. military assistance to Israel. There is also the dossier on stockpiling military equipment, ammunition, and spare parts for the U.S. Army in Israel, and the cooperation in the development of the Haitis [name as heard] missile in light of the experiment carried out by the Israeli Army last week.

All these issues are naturally part of the strategic cooperation between Washington and Tel Aviv, which will receive substantial attention during Rabin's talks in the U.S. capital.

We do not give much thought regarding the side Israel is targeting from the U.S. military assistance, consolidation of the bilateral military cooperation, stockpiling weapons and equipment, and other issues. The answer is embodied now in the daily Israeli repression in the occupied territories, the routine shelling of southern Lebanon, and the continuous threats to the other Arab countries. This is how Israel is preparing to resume the peace process. It is through escalating the unprecedented repression in the occupied Arab territories, and through

constant and relentless efforts to obtain more U.S. military support, which has never ceased since the creation of Israel.

This mounting Israeli repression does not provide the suitable atmosphere for the resumption of the talks, but creates further tension. If Israel receives more U.S. military support, which Rabin is seeking during his upcoming visit to the U.S. capital, this will not encourage it to pursue the path of peace as much as it will encourage it to stick to its current policy, which is based on procrastination, obstruction, and killing the peace process from its roots.

Logically, Israel does not care if its policy leads to the collapse of the peace process. To those who are really concerned with this process, however, whether in Washington or elsewhere in the world, and those concerned with the attainment of peace, security, and stability in the Middle East, and who saw the peace process as a real spark of hope to reach that objective—to all those we raise this question: Can talks be expected to resume amid

this atmosphere of tension that Israel fuels daily with the approaching proposed date for the ninth round of talks? What is the use of resuming the talks at a time when Israel thinks only of repression and coercion, and disregards the simplest human rights of the people in the occupied Arab territories? Israel is only concerned with the means to realize military superiority over the Arabs, with the U.S. support, in order to continue threatening and terrorizing them.

The Arab concern for the resumption of the peace process stems from concern to regain Arab rights. As much as we adhere to our rights, so we adhere to the peace process as a historic opportunity through which we can regain these rights. There will be no peace without the regaining of these rights. He who wants to advance the peace process and render it successful should take this firm fact into account. Remaining silent toward the Israeli repression and providing the tools for Israeli oppression and aggression do not, and will not serve the peace process.

Afghanistan

Fresh Bombardment of Kabul Kills 22

LD0903164093 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] The rebellious section of Hezb-e Wahdat associated with Mazari fired rockets last night at the residential areas of Kabul city. A responsible security source has told the BAKHTAR military correspondent that adventurers and people who do not want the restoration of peace in our war-weary country have once again launched a heavy rocket bombardment of residential areas and dwellings of the Muslim and oppressed people of Kabul. The rockets were of the Sakar type. As a result 22 of our innocent compatriots including children and women were martyred and 150 others were injured; most of the injuries were minor, and they were released after treatment. Houses were damaged. The rockets, fired from the directions of Dasht-e Barchi and Onchi Baghbanan, landed in wards 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, and 11 of Kabul.

The security source added that the rockets were fired at a time when the Islamic State of Afghanistan and esteemed jihadi leaders of Afghanistan have reached an agreement on related matters and signed an accord on permanent cease-fire, and is trying to implement this act, which is warmly welcomed by our Muslim and faithful people, in order that our people and dear country may be (free) from the fratricide.

Senior Security Official Killed on Duty

LD0903164593 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Excerpt] We have learned with deep sorrow that brother mojahed engineer Mir Hashem Hashemi, deputy head of National Security and head of its Political Affairs Department, was martyred while discharging his duties for the establishment of peace and security. [passage omitted; Koranic verse and funeral arrangements]

Cease-Fire Committee Established in Kabul

LD0903183493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 1600 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] In Kabul a cease-fire committee has been set up. It is made up of two representatives from each of the main warring sides. The committee said it has received assurances from Defense Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and the Hezb-e Wahdat that the fighting would cease. This follows a peace agreement signed by all the Afghan leaders in Islamabad.

Northern Forces Deploy in Supervisory Council Posts

LD0503162193 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] A correspondent of Radio Message Freedom, quoting an authoritative source of the armed jihadi

forces of Hezb-e Eslami of Afghanistan, reports that since yesterday, General Momen's and General Baba Jan's men [part of the northern forces] have been deployed in more than 66 posts and centers of the Supervisory Council [Shura-ye Nezar] inside Kabul city.

In another report our correspondent on this issue adds that some Supervisory Council posts in Kabul have been evacuated instead of replacing them with fresh men, and this has been carried out at a time when negotiations and talks are continuing among the jihadi groups in Islamabad. A number of coalition elements like Mas'ud, the so-called defense minister, and his communist accomplices, resort to such efforts when they see their future in danger to make the situation tense. Political observers say this action by the Supervisory Council can have two aspects. First, the Supervisory Council wants to evacuate its men from these posts and to deploy them to other places. [words indistinct] Communist generals want to disrupt the climate of peace and understanding and to fan the flames of new fighting.

Education Delegation Returns From Turkey, Iran

LD0803110193 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] An Afghan cultural delegation led by Professor 'Abdol Fatah Majid, acting minister of education, returned to Kabul after paying visits to Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran and securing the assistance of those countries. The Afghan delegation—which consisted of Prof. Sayd Amirshah Hassanyar, rector of Kabul University, and representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs—met during their five-day stay in Turkey with the minister of national education of that country, and presented a message from Esteemed Prof. Afghan President Borhannodin Rabbani to Turkish President Ozal. The message was received with gratitude.

The head of the delegation signed a memorandum of understanding with the minister of national education after talks between the head of the Higher Education Council and the Turkish delegation. Under the agreement, five to 10 young lecturers of Kabul University and 100 students of Afghanistan's universities studying in the fields of agriculture, forestry, engineering, and social sciences will be accepted for studies in the faculties of that country and at the expense of the government of Turkey.

Technical and scientific assistance for the reconstruction of universities of Afghanistan, the exchange of lecturers and scientific publications between Afghanistan and Turkey, and especially the supply of Kabul University's faculties of agriculture and veterinary medicine with needed equipment and the training of Afghan students are included in the note of understanding.

The delegation also met with a number of Kabul University lecturers who live in Turkey and invited them to return to the homeland and to participate in the reconstruction of the country.

The Afghan cultural delegation visited Tehran on its return from Turkey. Working meetings were held with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Alaedin Borujerdi, deputy head of education affairs of the Ministry Foreign Affairs of Iran and rector of Azad Islamic University of Iran and University of Tehran. A memorandum of understanding was signed with Iran's Azad Islamic University at the end of talks.

Under this agreement, 40 scholarships for master's degrees and five Ph.D. scholarships in various fields will be granted to lecturers of Afghanistan's faculties. Some textbooks and equipment required by Afghanistan's universities will also be supplied by the university. In addition, under the memorandum of understanding, a number of students who will be introduced to the university by the Ministry of Higher and Vocational Education will be awarded places by the university in the fields of [word indistinct] engineering, science, and medical science. The latter category of students will have to pay for their expenses.

Bangladesh

French Defense Ministry Delegation Arrives

BK0603154293 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] A French Defense Ministry delegation led by (Jean Pierre Serbiole), chief engineer of the French Army, arrived in Dhaka today on a three-day goodwill visit to Bangladesh. The delegation members called on Defense Secretary M.A. Malik in Dhaka this afternoon. Ian Michelle Lacombe, the French ambassador to Bangladesh, was present during the meeting. The delegation members will meet Navy Chief Rear Admiral Mohammad Mohaimenul Islam at the naval headquarters tomorrow. They will also visit naval ships and installations in Chittagong.

Efforts To Resume Dialogue With Tribal Insurgents

BK1003103593 Dhaka DAINIK ITTEFAQ in Bengali 1 Mar 93 p 1

[By Hassan Shahriyar]

[Text] An initiative has been taken to reschedule the suspended dialogue between the government and the Shanti Bahini [Chittagong Tribal Insurgents] aimed at resolving the Chittagong Hill Tracts problem. It may be mentioned that this third round of talks between the two sides was scheduled to be held in the first week of February but it was called off. During their last meeting held in December 1992, a deadlock was created as the

Shanti Bahini renewed its earlier demand for regional autonomy in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Officials said that it is not possible for the government to accept this demand by the Shanti Bahini. This has been conveyed to the Shanti Bahini leaders several times but they still insist on it.

The convenor of the Liaison Committee, Shangshdhajan Chakma, has arrived in Dhaka with a message from the Shanti Bahini to restart the dialogue. This committee was formed to liaise between the Bangladesh Government and the Shanti Bahini. He will meet the communications minister, Colonel Oli Ahmed, retired, who is also the convenor of the parliamentary committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts and fix a fresh date for the dialogue. It is expected that this meeting will be held after the end of the fasting month of Ramadan.

It is not known whether the Shanti Bahini has changed its earlier stand, but a faction is in favor of continuing the dialogue. Another faction, however, wants to press with the demand for autonomy. But a change has been observed in the group's demands. Earlier, their demand was for provincial autonomy, but now it is demanding regional autonomy. There is no scope for provincial autonomy under the provisions of the Bangladesh Constitution. The Shanti Bahini raised the issue of regional autonomy after they were told in clear terms that their earlier demand cannot be met.

Officials said that a separate board has been formed for the development of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, and the districts of this region have been given a lot of powers which have not been given to any other districts of the country. At present, the Shanti Bahini is demanding formation of a separate ministry and also a separate judicial system for the Chittagong Hill Tracts. They are also demanding reservation of seats for the tribals in the parliament and delegation of more powers to the Hill District Councils. Besides this, they are demanding formation of a separate police administration and withdrawal of the armed forces from the region.

Officials added that it would be possible to identify the problems of the region and work out a solution, if free and frank talks are held. They added that the government is not giving much importance to their demand regarding renaming the Chittagong Hill Tracts as Jhoomland.

When contacted yesterday, Col. Oli Ahmed told this correspondent that a fresh date from the suspended meeting has not yet been fixed. He further declined knowing anything about the arrival of Shangshdhajan Chakma in Dhaka and the proposed meeting with him.

Communist Party Decides To Change Name, Policy

BK0903134193 Dhaka DAINIK ITTEFAQ in Bengali 1 Mar 93 p 1

By ITTEFAQ correspondent]

[Text] The process of split in the Bangladesh Communist Party, CPB, has begun. In the Central Committee meeting of the party held yesterday, a majority of votes was cast in favor of changing the name of the party. Out of a total of 57 voters, 40 voted in favor of changing the name and policy of the party with 13 opposed and four abstentions. Though the extremists have lost in the voting, they are firm in their stand to retain the name and ideology of the party. Due to this, the party became divided as of yesterday. A formal decision on the issue will be made at the special session of the party to be held in May.

The Central Committee of the CPB has announced that a final decision will be made at the special national conference of the party to be held in Dhaka from 14-16 May for promoting the cause of democracy, social justice, and nationalism. It further said that an alliance will be forged with other like-minded political parties. The resolutions adopted at the Central Committee meeting will be circulated among party leaders and workers throughout the country before the national conference is held.

Later, the CPB general secretary, Nurul Islam Nahid, told newsmen that they want to mold the party in accordance with the current reality. He said the Central Committee has made its decision in a democratic fashion.

Before the Central Committee meeting, the CPB presidium met and held discussions on the future of the party. Out of a total of 15 presidium members, 11 expressed their opinion in favor of changing the party ideology while the remaining four opposed it.

In the Central Committee meeting, the president of the Trade Union Center, Nurul Islam, proposed a compromise formula which included changing the party name only but retaining its ideology. As the extremists opposed this formula, a decision was taken to hold a vote on the issue.

The CPB was formed 40 years ago under the leadership of Moni Singh. After the collapse of the Soviet Union and failure of socialism throughout the world, the CPB in Bangladesh also suffered a setback. In its last congress, the CPB renounced communism. Due to the Central Committee decision to change the name of the party, some leaders, particularly those who are members of the current parliament, are likely to quit and join other parties.

Australia To Provide Wheat Grant Worth 260 Million Taka

BK0903162093 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Bangladesh will get a wheat grant worth over 260 million taka from Australia under the 1992-93 food aid

program. A memorandum of understanding to this effect was signed in Dhaka today between the secretary of the Economic Relations Department and the Australian high commissioner. Australia's food aid to Bangladesh since its independence has totalled 1.32 million tons of wheat. It is also providing financial assistance to Bangladesh in its development programs. At present, Australia is financing the population and health projects of the Bangladesh Government.

Bureaucratic Control Impedes Agricultural Development

BK0903085793 Dhaka DAINIK ITTEFAQ in Bengali 4 Feb 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Food Deficit in Third World"]

[Text] The Third World countries will have to face a severe food deficit within the next two decades if immediate measures are not taken drastically to reduce the population growth rate by 40 percent and boost food output. This warning was issued at a seminar held under the auspices of the International Food Policy Research Institute, IFRI, in Washington on 29 January. It said that if appropriate measures are not taken to overcome the food deficit then about 50 crore famine-stricken people of the Third World will become a major problem for the world.

IFRI sources said that since 1980 there has been a 22 percent reduction in financial assistance which is given for boosting food output. During this period, the United States alone gave about \$100 crore less to the Third World as assistance for the food sector. This sector received a total of \$1200 crore less during the past 10-12 years. The director general of IFRI, Par Pinstrup Anderson [name as published], has described this decline in food assistance as alarming. He added that if effective measures are not taken to boost food output and check the population boom then a severe famine situation will be observed in three food-deficit regions of the world.

There are two ways to boost food production. These include bringing more areas under cultivation and ensuring supply of high-yielding variety of seeds. Several participants in the seminar expressed the opinion that in many developing countries agricultural development is being hampered as these are being conducted by bureaucrats. IFRI has recommended that the agriculture sector should be brought out of the control of bureaucrats and subsidies should be stopped. It has also suggested that infrastructural support should be given by governments of the Third World countries to market their products.

In Bangladesh, agriculture comprises about 80 percent of the national economy but the nationalized sector which controls agriculture and takes up various economic uplift programs is known as a losing concern. Due to this the country is becoming poorer day by day.

AIADMK-Congress-I Ends Alliance in Tamil Nadu

BK1003004893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0035 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] In Tamil Nadu, the long-standing Congress-I, AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] alliance has formally come to an end. The state chief minister and General Secretary of the AIADMK, Ms. Jayalalitha, has declared late last night that her party is withdrawing its support to the Congress-I government at the center. She further said that her party will contest the ensuing byelections to the Palani Lok Sabha and Ranipet assembly seats on its own.

Our Madras correspondent, S. Samuthiram, says that the differences had been widening between the Congress-I and the AIADMK since the 6 December Ayodhya incidents. The Congress-I blamed that the AIADMK government is allowing public meetings of the Hindu Munnani [front] which is an outfit of the banned RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh]. The state Congress-I leadership also pointed out that the AIADMK government is not taking any action for banning the proposed rally of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] on the 21st of this month at Madras.

Commenting on the developments, the DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] president, Mr. M. Karunanidhi, said Ms. Jayalalitha's decision to snap her party's alliance with the Congress-I was an expected one. The Janata Party president, Mr. Subramanian Swamy, welcoming the developments said it was inevitable. The Congress-I spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, however, declined to comment.

Parties React to Split

BK1003131293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] The Congress-I says that the breaking of alliance by the AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] with the party will not affect the stability of the government at the center. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, the party spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, regretted that the AIADMK has unilaterally chosen to end the alliance. He said the question of alliance with any other party will be considered when there is some offer.

The Janata Dal says the AIADMK's decision to snap its ties with the Congress-I may not affect the continuation of the Narasimha Rao government at present. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, the party spokesman, Mr. Harikishore Singh, however said its position has weakened politically. Mr. Singh said his party wants the government to place before parliament all the material at its disposal on the issue relating to a Hyderabad-based firm and Andhra Bank Financial Services.

The CPI [Communist Party of India] general secretary, Mr. Indrajit Gupta, says the Tamil Nadu chief minister,

Ms. Jayalalitha, is trying to have an alliance with the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party]. Addressing a news conference in Cochin today, he expressed the view that this new relationship will pose a threat to secularism in the country.

Government Denies Rao Link With Andhra Loan Issue

BK1003092693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] The government today categorically stated in parliament that the prime minister has nothing to do with the reported loan issue relating to a Hyderabad-based firm. Both the houses were told that his name should not be unnecessarily dragged into the matter. Asserting this, the parliamentary affairs minister, Mr. V.C. Shukla, informed the two houses that CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] is already inquiring into the matter after a complaint was received from the chief vigilance officer of the Andhra Bank on the 14th of December. He said relevant information sought by the Joint Parliamentary Committee [JPC] inquiring into the security scam has been provided to it and the JPC should make up its mind what it should do with it. Mr. Shukla said that the government has nothing to hide and will pass on to JPC any further information available to it.

The issue was raised during the zero hour with the opposition demanding a statement from the government to clarify the position. In the Lok Sabha, several opposition leaders said a reference made to the JPC should not preclude the house from discussing the issue as it is not a routine matter. The speaker, Mr. Shivraj Patil, reminded the members that they should follow proper procedures before raising such issues. Quoting relevant rules, he pointed out that the members should not only give adequate notice to him as well as the concerned ministers, but also obtain permission from the chair before raising the issue.

In the Rajya Sabha, the matter was raised by Mr. Kamal Murarka, JD-S [Janata Dal-S]. Before the statement from the minister, there were heated arguments between the opposition and ruling party members.

Rao Wants U.S. Cooperation in Technology Transfer

BK0903144893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] The prime minister has reiterated that nuclear proliferation is a global issue and not country or region specific. Mr. Narasimha Rao made it clear while talking to a delegation of the Washington-based Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in New Delhi today. He also stressed the need for greater cooperation between India and the United States in the transfer of technology in more areas. The prime minister said the earlier intensive exchanges of scholars between the two countries should be restored.

Islamabad Says Indian Troops Kill 20 in Kashmir*BK0903145493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 9 Mar 93*

[Text] In occupied Kashmir, 20 people—mostly youth, have been martyred during intensified siege and search operation by Indian troops. According to KMS [KASHMIR MEDIA SERVICE], the operation was carried out in Srinagar, Baramula, Sopor and Kupwara. Most of the casualties came when people resisted during house-to-house searches. Mojahedin in retaliation attacked positions of Indian troops and killed four of them in Kupwara and Srinagar.

Commentary Criticizes Pakistan, UN on Kashmiri Rights*BK1003122593 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 10 Mar 93*

[Commentary by Kuldip Singh Arora: "Pakistan Sheds Tears for Kashmiri Militants"]

[Text] Pakistan's (?unofficial) 11-point resolution on Kashmir before the 49th session of the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva seeking amongst things a fact-finding mission to Jammu and Kashmir is another attempt to internationalize the issue of accession of Kashmir to India and also an attempt to shed crocodile tears for extremists in Kashmir. To perpetuate terrorism in Kashmir, Pakistan has demanded sanctions against India for fighting terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir. India's representative Janardhana Reddy has timely warned the UN Human Rights Commission against any such move. While the function of international organizations such as the commission on human rights is to monitor the implementation by states of international obligations—freely contracted—the commission has no business to assume the role of UN threat or sanction for alleged human rights violation of extremists who are freely killing innocent people of the state on the behest of Pakistan that has already failed thrice in annexing Kashmir by force from India and has now resorted to proxy war. The commission should also know that, unlike Pakistan, a democratic regime for human rights has evolved within our society and we do not accept any regime imposed from outside. India has already set up an independent human rights commission in earnest of her commitment to strive ceaselessly for the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedom of all its citizens.

Pakistan should know that human rights are not to be seen as a preserver of the practitioners of terrorism. The commission could no longer afford to ignore that terrorism was emerging as the single most dangerous threat to human rights. It was doing no good to innocent people by concentrating its attention on governments alone who are fighting terrorism to preserve human rights of the millions of their citizens. India should make it clear to the commission that it would not accept any resolution that cares to preserve the human rights of murderers,

abductors, rapists and terrorists of the most naked form. India, being a democratic country, is immediately accountable to the people in the exercise of their human rights and also for its abridgment. Any resolution by the commission should be treated as a hostile act which would effectively bring an end to any move for a bilateral discussion with Pakistan on various issues.

The Pakistani women's group which alleged mischievously that rape was being used as a weapon to break the morale of Kashmiri women care to forget what happened to millions of Bengali women of East Pakistan, now Bangladesh, in 1970-71 when they were mercilessly raped by the invading army of the then West Pakistan leading to birth of millions of unwanted pregnancies. The plight of Sindhis and minority community women is no better. They are abducted, raped molested and their naked bodies are thrown in the streets by the state-sponsored goondas [bandits] and boys in the uniforms. Let the Pakistani women group go and take care of their sisters in Pakistan. Ikhwanul Muslemeen, a strong-ranking militant group in Kashmir, has already claimed over 700 abductions, innocent killings, and disfiguring of the faces of young beautiful girls. Only last week, extremists killed Dr. Farooq Azai—a noted bone specialist—and two relatives of the Pradesh [state] Congress Committee President Ghulam Rasul Kar—Habibullah Mirshah and Ghulam Nabi Baba—who were abducted earlier from their native town of Sopor in north Kashmir. Innocent people of Kashmir are picked up and killed to scare people from raising voice against inhuman killings by extremists, and even on mere suspicion for the simple reason that they were government officers, also called informers.

Pakistan or UN commission have never shed a single tear for harassment and humiliation of the innocent people suffering in Kashmir and are migrating from their homes for fear of guns and rapes of their women folk. The operation, persecution, havoc and nightmare of Sindhis which started last year with military operations and left behind over 100 Sindhis slaughtered is still continuing unabated. The national congress of the Jeay Sindh Mahaz held in Kachhi District of Balochistan last week has unfolded the persecution of Sindhis and have resolved to achieve the national liberation of Sindhis to escape all forms of terrorism and racism. Let Amnesty International and the UN Human Rights Commission go to Sindh and inquire into reports of torture of hundreds of political activists detained during the long march of the opposition organized on 18 November last year.

Retention of Country's Nuclear Option Defended*BK1003104393 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 27 Feb 93 p 8*

[Editorial: "The Grim Reality"]

[Text] New developments that have taken place in Asia since the collapse of the Soviet Union have underlined

the need for an entirely new approach to the problem of nuclear weapons proliferation. To insist that the Nuclear NonProliferation Treaty is the vital key to the world's entry into a nuclear-weapons-free paradise will, in other words, be a dangerous delusion. This has become clearer than ever before following the release of two fairly comprehensive reports on the new sources of the nuclear danger compiled by the Central Intelligence Agency of the US and the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service. Both the reports are now before the US Senate Governmental Affairs Committee chaired by the staunch non-proliferation champion, Senator John Glenn. India, in particular, has been trying to impress upon Washington the importance of a thorough assessment of the new security environment created by the Soviet upheaval. The two reports have served to bear out New Delhi's apprehensions about the sharp increase in the proliferation of nuclear weapons or fissile materials as a result of the highly unsettled conditions in ex-Soviet Asia.

Testifying before the Senate Committee, the CIA Director, Mr Jim Woolsey, for instance, has expressed alarm over his finding that "nearly half the countries in the conflict-ridden Middle East region had or were developing weapons of mass destruction." This has given a new edge to persistent reports in the Western media about a growing black market in fissile materials and nuclear weapons know-how in Central Asia. The relevance of such reports to what Mr Woolsey has said about Iran's "massive and costly military build-up" which encompasses weapons of mass destruction as well as advance fighter aircraft, long-range fighter bombers, submarine and missiles" is obvious. Indian policy-makers cannot but take serious note of Iran's military programme of such dimensions. The plain reason is that Pakistan has feverishly sought to build up close military links with Iran in the name of Islamic solidarity. Iran's objective may be to become a dominant power in West Asia. But there is no guarantee that Pakistan will not benefit from Iranian policy for its own ulterior purposes in South Asia.

Significantly, the Russian report has noted that Pakistan has "created a large and ramified state structure which successfully conducts secret purchases of materials abroad" for its uranium enrichment and plutonium extraction programmes. Add to this the reported Chinese as well as North Korean help to Pakistan for its nuclear weapons programme about which no credible disclaimer has come from either country. Naturally, Mr Woolsey has misgivings particularly about China's relationship with Pakistan. In the alarming backdrop of the new security situation, how can anyone expect India to unilaterally forgo the nuclear option?

Commentary Views Ties With Central Asian Republics

BK0603114693 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Commentary by journalist Harish N. Das]

[Text] India has ancient links with Central Asia which have developed substantially in modern times and which form a solid foundation for future cooperation. We Asian states share a secular outlook and are desirous of building a modern state where religion is kept separate from politics. India wishes to see a strong and self-reliant Central Asia and is willing to help building the necessary infrastructure needed for this task mainly by sharing her own experience in development as an independent nation state. Central Asia has evinced keen interest in India's experience as a functioning democracy. Since they achieved independence, the Central Asian states have witnessed the formation of new political parties. These parties are eager to evolve their distinct platforms and will be inevitably interested in the political systems in their neighborhood.

India has signed various agreements for setting up joint commissions for strengthening technical and economic cooperation and also for greater people-to-people contact through cultural exchange programs. The forthcoming first meetings of these joint commissions in India will give a significant impulse to the growth of our relations in all fields. In turn, such a development of India's relations with Central Asia will naturally be influenced by the new order which is emerging in that region. Government of India has already hosted the visits of the presidents of Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan and the prime minister of Tajikistan to India. These visits have laid the foundation for the long term development of our bilateral relations with these countries based on the framework agreements signed during these visits. The Central Asian states have expressed general appreciation of India's constructive and consistent foreign policy. India today constitutes a major power for regional stability and good relations between India and Central Asian states are an imperative for peace and development.

The thrust of India's cooperation with all the Central Asian states is to revive the people-to-people exchanges which had earlier been the hallmark of our interaction with this region. In this task, greater financial outlay for hosting Central Asian visitors to India as well as the rapid development of airlinks with each Central Asian state to facilitate tourism exchanges will play a pivotal role. However, some neighboring countries have been outpacing India and trying to expand their influence by (?entrapping) these newly independent countries through regional networks like the Caspian Sea Cooperation Organization launched by Turkey, the Association of Persian Speaking People created by Iran, and the vigorous attempts by Pakistan to use the Economic Cooperation Organization. While Turkey has sought to project itself as a foundation of Pan Turkism, Iran has attempted to make capital from a common Persian destiny. Pak's policy has been to give Islamic coloring by enticing the recently legalized fundamentalist parties in these republics into an anti-India grouping. Pakistan also attempted to use rail and road links through Pakistan to the Arabian Sea as the strong point of its strategy to woo

these republics. The ports of Gwadar, Pasni, Port Qasim, and (Khor Kalamath) straddling the Makran Coast were offered for exclusive use by these republics. By creating the necessary communications infrastructure, Pakistan's strategy was to undercut Tehran and Ankara's position of influence in the region.

Promotion of Trade Ties With Vietnam Encouraged

BK0503131793 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Commentary by journalist Suresh Singh: "Indo-Vietnamese Economic and Trade Ties"]

[Text] The recent visit to Vietnam by the Indian minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Salman Khurshid, is an important step toward strengthening the economic and technical cooperation between the two countries. India and Vietnam have been good friends and they are constantly promoting their warm and close relations. Former prime minister of India, late Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, visited Vietnam twice in November 1985 and later in April 1988. Again further during April 1990, the then minister for external affairs, Mr. I.K. Gujaral, attended the fourth session of Indo-Vietnam Joint Commission held in Vietnam. The visit of the then commerce minister, Mr. Arun Nehru, in September 1990 saw the culmination of a trade protocol with Vietnam. The former president of India, Mr. R. Venkataraman, also visited Vietnam about two years ago. Vietnamese dignitaries, too, had been visiting India from time to time. Mr. Do Muoi, who is general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, paid an official visit to India in September last. The then general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, Mr. [Nguyen] Van Linh, was the chief guest of the Indian Republic Day in 1989. Former foreign minister Nguyen Co Thach also came to India on several occasions.

Recently, various steps to forge ahead the links between the two countries have been envisaged. An air agreement to facilitate direct flights to and from Vietnam by the national airlines and avoidance of double taxation is to be signed in near future. Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam and Bangalore will establish a sister cities relationship which is expected to go a long way in strengthening economic and cultural links between the two countries. Besides, a high-level Indian trade delegation will visit Vietnam shortly. This will consist of leading industrialists, senior government officials, bank executives, and top businessmen. This will be followed by a similar delegation from Vietnam to India. The delegates will discuss and negotiate mainly about infrastructure of transportation and tourism to explore and promote economic cooperation and cultural ties between the two countries.

During Mr. Khurshid's discussions with the chairman of Ho Chi Minh City People's Committee, both sides agreed to cooperate in the field of transport and tourism.

India has agreed to provide son et lumiere [sound and light] at world famous Cu Chi tunnel near Ho Chi Minh City for promotion of tourism in Vietnam. India will also provide technical assistance for strengthening of public transport system of Vietnam. Indian buses will be sent for this purpose. Joint development of computer software is another field where both the sides have agreed to cooperate with each other.

The trade turnover of Vietnam with India has been encouraging. During 1991, it was worth \$1,340 million. While India's trade balance with Vietnam includes higher imports, its exports also have risen steadily during the last three years. And now with the liberalization of Indian economy, the trend is expected to speed up further. India imports from Vietnam important commodities like rice, cashew, metal scrap, pulses, silk and timber. India exports mainly engineering goods and textiles to Vietnam. Various meetings of the Indo-Vietnam Joint Economic and Technical Commission have been held as a serious effort to promote bilateral trade. Set up in December 1980, the commission's sixth meeting was held last year in Delhi and the next one is to be held in Hanoi. Under IVEC [Indo-Vietnam Economic Cooperation] program, India so far has extended about 2,500 million rupees to Vietnam as cash credit. This has been utilized for import of items like locomotives, textile machinery, and its spare parts. India also imported 420,000 metric tons of rice from Vietnam during 1989. Under the IVEC program, considerable assistance, including organization of 90 training (?slots) are being provided every year. India formally handed over the Rice Research Center and also [words indistinct] and Forest Research Center to Vietnam during April 1989 which was set up under this program. Further, the public sector as well as private sector companies have signed agreements for joint offshore exploration of petroleum in the southern parts of Vietnam.

India and Vietnam have identical views on restructuring and democratization of the United Nations. Vietnam is wholeheartedly supporting Indian candidature for the permanent membership of the Security Council in the proposed restructuring of UN. India and Vietnam have attained their independence and sovereignty by a prolonged struggle against imperialism and colonialism and therefore value it the most.

New Regional Political Party Formed in Sikkim State

BK0603081293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] A new regional political party, the Sikkim Democratic Front, has been launched in Sikkim. Announcing the formation of the party, its President Mr. P.K. (Chim Ling), MLA [member of Legislative Assembly], said in a press release issued today in Gangtok that his organization has no political ambition to form the government. It would at present strive to help the Sikkimese to attain their democratic rights as enshrined in the Constitution.

Paper Dismisses Search for Political Third Force

BK1003110993 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 6 Mar 93 p 8

[Editorial: "The Third Force Idea"]

[Text] The irony of the moves to bring together the splinter groups of the original Janata Dal will escape no one. Even six months ago who would have thought it possible that the former Prime Ministers, Mr Chandra Shekhar and Mr V. P. Singh could sup together, or that Mr V. P. Singh would try to mend fences with Mr Mulayam Singh Yadav and Mr Ramakrishna Hegde, Mr S. R. Bommai and Mr Deve Gowda would even try to hold a friendly dialogue on the current situation? If all this is happening today, it is certainly not because the personal rivalries that wrecked the two Janata experiments in the 70s and 80s have faded. They have not. What has changed, of course, is the political environment in the country reflected in expectations of an early general election. Both make it necessary for the squabbling anti-Congress politicians to try and put the past behind them and start all over again.

The search for what is called a new third force, however, is based on facile and contradictory assumptions. The effort is centred on UP [Uttar Pradesh] and Bihar which together account for a major bloc of 149 Lok Sabha seats and where the 1989 Janata Dal had its main bases. The leaders of the JD [Janata Dal] factions apparently fear that after Ayodhya, the Hindutva factor is likely to cut deeper into their pre-split bases and help the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] increase its strength in Parliament and return to power in UP. They also seem to believe that the Congress lacks the political will to counter communalism and in any case is too weak organisationally in the Hindi belt to mount a significant challenge to the BJP. From this flows the assumption articulated by Mr Chandrajit Yadav of the Janata Dal: that the third force must be a centrist formation holding together diverse interests.

What all this means in effect is that the third force will be positioning itself to confront the Congress and BJP simultaneously, an endeavour which makes impossible a united anti-communal front and will, therefore, help the BJP. The new formation would be new, if it emerges at all, in name only. In essence it would draw upon exactly the same constituencies and allies as in 1989, from the Mandal backward classes and the Bahujan Samaj Party to the large and middle peasantry and old socialist elements. What has always held this amalgam of conflicting interests together is anti-Congressism. Today, opposition to the Congress cannot be so sharp because both the Congress and a revived third force have a common interest in battling Hindutva. Unless a clear centrist philosophy is enunciated and it replaces anti-Congressism as the glue for the intended new combine, the rivalry between various leaders of the Janata Dal and Samajwadi Janata Party is unlikely to end. At a time

when the country is so sharply polarised along communal lines, an inherently unstable combine does not appear to offer a genuine alternative to either the Congress or the BJP.

Iran

Pakistani, Afghan Leaders To Meet President

LD1003154893 Tehran IRNA in English 1245 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Tehran March 10 IRNA—Pakistani Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani and Golboddin Hekmatyar, leader of Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party], will arrive here Thursday [11 March] on a one-day visit.

The Pakistani premier and Afghan leaders are to hold talks with President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani during their stay in Tehran.

According to an informed source at Iran's Foreign Ministry, in case working groups were formed in Tehran to follow up and clarify ambiguous points in Islamabad peace accord, the visit of Afghan leaders would be extended.

The two Afghan mujahideen leaders who signed the peace accord on Tuesday, are now in Saudi Arabia to perform out-of-the-season pilgrimage to the holy Islamic shrines and hold talks with King Fahd.

Borujerdi Views Afghan Peace Accord Prospects

LD0903182193 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Interview with 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi, deputy foreign minister for Asia and Pacific Affairs, following his return from the Afghan peace talks in Islamabad, by unidentified correspondent—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] What are the guarantees for the implementation of the Afghanistan peace accord?

[Borujerdi] I think that, on the one hand, the conciliatory attitude and the political decision of the leaders of the jihadi groups, especially Jami'at-e Eslami and Hezb-e Eslami will be an important and essential basis for the implementation of the accord and can be regarded as a guarantee. On the other hand, the continuation of the efforts of neighboring countries, such as the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, can be of great help in the implementation of the accord.

There are still certain ambiguous points in the accord. Not everything is clear. Agreement about the formation of the ministries which may be acceptable to all groups is a sensitive point. The difficulty regarding the Ministry of Defense still remains. However, none of these difficulties would mean that it is not possible to reach an agreement and to establish peace in Kabul. This is our hope—and we will continue our efforts in the context of this hope

and aspiration—that peace and stability will be established in Kabul and throughout Afghanistan, God willing.

[Correspondent] Despite this accord, fighting has still continued in Kabul. What is your assessment of the situation?

[Borujerdi] On the basis of the accord, so long as agreement has not been reached regarding the important clauses of the accord, in practice the implementation of the accord is postponed. In other words, it is essential that the members of the Cabinet are appointed, and that decisions are clearly reached regarding which groups or individuals are in charge of which responsibilities. Immediately after that stage, cease-fire, the exchange of PoWs, and the other clauses will be implemented, God willing.

[Correspondent] Will these follow-ups continue to take place outside Afghanistan [as heard]?

[Borujerdi] The present idea is that after the visit of the leaders of the jihadi groups [to Saudi Arabia] and their Omreh pilgrimage to the House of God, they will, God willing, come to the Islamic Republic of Iran; and the esteemed president has also invited His Excellency Mr. Nawaz Sharif to visit Tehran as well. In view of the holy month of Ramadan, this visit may be brief, but his very presence after the Islamabad conference will demonstrate the decision of the two governments of Iran and Pakistan to engage in a serious effort to settle the existing situation in Afghanistan. I think that in addition to the discussions which will take place in Tehran following the Islamabad conference, many of the issues will remain to be followed up inside Afghanistan. A number of sites have been mentioned, such as Jalalabad. However, it is natural that the final decision rests with the leaders of the jihadi groups.

Commentary Views Prospects for Afghan Peace Accord

LD0903133793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1055 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Station commentary: "Afghanistan, War or Peace"]

[Text] While the leaders of the Afghan jihadi groups have reached agreement on the establishment of a cease-fire and the division of power, a shadow of ambiguity has engulfed the Islamabad peace agreement.

Consecutive wars and missile attacks on Kabul in the past two months have caused the death of over 1,000 civilians and the injury of at least 6,000, thus increasing the wave of migration from Kabul to safer areas. All efforts at mediation have met with failure as the clashes intensified in recent months, and even meetings between mujahedin leaders failed to provide favorable grounds for the establishment of a permanent cease-fire and the restoration of peace to Afghanistan.

Iran and Pakistan have taken the lead in pursuing diplomatic efforts to establish peace, and initiated fresh efforts to that end. The convocation of the recent session in Islamabad is viewed as a new round in the diplomatic efforts aimed at the peaceful resolution of Afghanistan's internal difficulties. The session comprised 10 of the Afghan jihadi groups, in particular, Hezb-e Jam'iat-e Eslami and its main rival [Hezb-e Eslami], as well as representatives from Pakistan, Iran, and Saudi Arabia.

The main axes of the Afghan leaders' joint session were the principles of agreement in the clauses of the cease-fire, the position of armed forces in Kabul, the composition of the cabinet, and the general elections. The most important part of the Islamabad session was the bilateral talks between Borhannodin Rabbani and his rival group. These two rival groups last met in Mordad [month beginning 21 July] of last year, but the talks met with failure due to the violation of the cease-fire and the eruption of fresh clashes.

In spite of the positive trend of the talks and the flexibility of the Afghan mujahedin leaders, the sole threat to the Islamabad talks is the Defense Ministry and the position of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud in that office. With the signing of the final agreement, it was decided to hand over supervision of that ministry to a military commission until the formation of a new cabinet. However, according to most recent reports, differences of opinion have once again emerged because Rabbani remarked recently that the previous [Peshawar] will hold in respect of the Defense Ministry, in other words, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud should for the moment remain in his position, and only other issues such as the cease-fire should be discussed and reviewed in a commission in liaison with the Defense Ministry. According to the Islamabad agreement, the Defense Ministry is to be managed in the form of a council, and each party is to be allocated only one key post in the government.

Such a different interpretation of the Islamabad agreement has cast a shadow of ambiguity over the possibility of a cease-fire and the creation of peace.

Japanese Envoy Told Nuclear Allegation 'Pretext'

LD1003174093 Tehran IRNA in English 1614 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Tehran, March 10, IRNA—An Iranian parliamentarian today warned the west that by raising false claim of Iran's ability to produce atomic bomb it could not block the nation's march towards development. "This allegation is a pretext by which they [western countries] are trying to prevent scientific and industrial cooperation between Iran and other countries," Mohammad Javad Larijani told Japanese Ambassador to Iran Tsuneo Oyake here.

Larijani, deputy chief of the Majlis (parliament) Foreign Policy Commission, reiterated that under the current situation "world affairs cannot be handled by a certain club and no country has the right to force Iran off the

road to development." How [does] the west dare to accuse Iran of attempting to obtain nuclear arms technology while it has failed to introduce any comprehensive plan free of political discriminations to stop production of such arms or destroy them, he said.

Larijani said such a contradictory approach indicates that western countries are not really interested in protecting the world against threats of arms of mass destruction.

He cited the meddlings of western states to plunder the natural resources and wealth of the region and the Iraqi aggressions on Iran and Kuwait as two major factors pushing the region towards turmoil.

Those countries interested in establishing peace and security in the region should help Iraq settle its problems so that a popular and democratic government comes to power in that country, he said. Larijani underlined the need to respect the views of different Iraqi groups in the forming of the future government in Iraq.

"The seven major industrialized countries - G-7 - should contribute to establish peace and security in the region more seriously rather than obey the orders of a certain country and repeat that country's threats," Larijani told the Japanese ambassador.

Visiting Comoran Ministers Meet Velayati

LD0703222393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT
7 Mar 93

[Text] Said Athoumane Said Ahmed, foreign minister of the Federal Islamic Republic of Comoros, and Mouslim Ben Moussa, Comoran minister of Islamic affairs, met with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in Tehran on Sunday [7 March].

At the meeting the Comoran foreign minister reported on the domestic and economic situation of his country and called for Iranian economic and cultural aid. In turn, Mr. Velayati hoped for an expansion of relations between the two countries and gave positive assurances on Iran's willingness to help the Muslim people of Comoros.

The Comoran minister of Islamic affairs noted that the aim of his trip was to visit the pure tomb of Imam Khomeyni—may he be admitted to God's paradise—in the holy month of Ramadan.

Praising the late imam, he said Imam Khomeyni was the leader of not only the Muslim people of Iran but all Muslims of the world. The Comoran foreign minister is carrying a written message from his country's president for the president of Iran.

Meet Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD0803114193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT
8 Mar 93

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Comoran Foreign Minister Said Athoumane Said Ahmed this morning. In the meeting, Mr. Said Ahmed submitted President Said Mohamed Djohar's written message to Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani and briefed him on the political, economic, and cultural situation in the Islamic Republic of Comoros, as well as the latest developments in that country.

Expressing his gratitude to the Islamic Republic of Iran for the attention it has paid to Muslims and African countries, the Comoran foreign minister called for the expansion of cooperation in all areas of mutual interest.

The Comoran minister of Islamic affairs, who was also present at the meeting, having praised the Islamic Republic of Iran's role as the Islamic world's focal point of hope and attention, described the Islamic revolution as the world Muslims' source of pride and honor.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in turn, having thanked Comoran President Said Djohar for his kind message and that country's ministers for their kind remarks, welcomed the expansion of ties with the Islamic state of Comoros, and reiterated the Islamic Republic of Iran's policy of expanding ties with Islamic and African countries.

Foreign Minister Velayati was also present at the meeting.

Demirel's 'Irresponsible, Hasty Behavior' Noted

NC0903191793 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 1 Mar 93 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "The Ankara Government—Once Again Irresponsible Behavior"]

[Text] We have heard a great deal about the arrogant powers' attempts to mar relations among neighboring countries in the region. Although this is true, as long as the officials of neighboring countries are alert and adopt a responsible attitude toward incidents, the wretched wishes of the arrogant powers can never be fulfilled.

It is obvious that the United States and Israel are doing their best to alter Tehran-Ankara relations to their wishes. How successful the Zionists will be depends on how alert the officials of Iran and Turkey are, and how well they can avoid giving foreigners the opportunity to mar relations.

It seems that some officials of the Ankara government have granted such opportunities to foreigners with their hasty stances. With his irresponsible stance, Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel has fanned the flames

of propaganda, started in Turkey by Zionist and American circles, designed to harm Tehran-Ankara relations.

Demirel previously accused Iran of collaboration with terrorists in Turkey. The Turkish press and even the Turkish president protested against this irresponsible and hasty behavior.

In a serious criticism of Demirel's stance, Turgut Ozal accused him of having committed a "diplomatic mistake." He said hasty accusations by the prime minister against a country is illogical and undiplomatic and that such accusations are illogical as long as investigations [into the Mumcu incident] have not been completed.

At the same time, some Turkish newspapers, whose intentions are obvious, were attributing the suspicious assassination of Mumcu to the Iran. Even though it was revealed that this murder was committed by Zionists, from the very beginning Turkey's Zionist circles insisted that this incident was the fault of Iran.

Now, once again, Demirel is speaking from the same point of view, naturally, with the same intentions. He has asked Iran to explain the allegations of Tehran's involvement in terrorist acts in Turkey, claiming that as long as Tehran fails to give sufficient explanations, Turkish public opinion will continue to have its doubts about Iran.

Demirel should have thought a little bit more before making this statement, which only satisfies the common enemies of the two countries. Who benefits from such stances? And even more important, what elements are poisoning the atmosphere against Iran in Turkey? Why does the Turkish prime minister feel the need to join in with these elements, aiming accusations at Iran from his official position so that he "will not lag behind" in this affair?

This irresponsible behavior by Demirel is regrettable. There is no doubt that the continuation of such behavior is to the detriment of bilateral relations. The Government of Iran, specifically the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, should summon the Turkish ambassador in Tehran and to ask him to explain this irresponsible behavior. They should point out to the Ankara government that the good will of the Islamic Republic of Iran has its limits. Demirel talks about Turkish public opinion and its doubts about Iran; in Iran, public opinion has no doubts about the sly activities of the Zionists and of U.S. hirelings in Turkey who are working to destroy relations between the two countries. The government in Ankara may resort to repetitive allegations about the freedom of press in order to justify the venomous approach of the Turkish press and to show that it is not responsible for the stance of the Turkish press, but it cannot justify or show indifference to Demirel's official remarks.

The Ankara government is gradually falling into the eddy that the United States and Israel want and is fulfilling their wish to harm relations between Iran and

Turkey in every possible way. Turkey's bitter experiences have proven that the more the Ankara government grants a free hand to the United States and Israel in Turkey, the more it is actually tying its own hands. It will ultimately have to face the worst situation possible, having to adopt an "inert stance" without having the right to make its own choices. With the help of the poisonous and spiteful propaganda of the United States and Israel it will fall into an eddy which will never be in the interests of an independent and free country.

If the people, the government, and those freedom-loving people who think of Turkey's true independence seek the roots of this problem, they will realize the depth of this disastrous situation and will conclude that the common enemies of Iran and of Turkey are trying to harm their bilateral relations. And they will also realize that any hasty and irresponsible behavior by Ankara officials will only fulfill the objectives of the two countries' common enemies.

Industries Minister on Economic Situation

NC0903215893 Tehran RESALAT in Persian
1 Mar 93 p 6

[Report on "exclusive" interview with Dr. Mohammad Nezhad-Hoseynian, heavy industries minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran by RESALAT correspondent in Tehran; date not given]

[Excerpts] [RESALAT] Some of the main problems of the industrial sector today stem from the adoption of a single-parity rate for foreign exchange and the shortage of financial resources for investment in the country. In your opinion, which of the industries will be the hardest hit and what measures are necessary to eliminate these problems?

[Nezhad-Hoseynian] Next year we will not have any serious problems with investments in heavy industries, in fact, we will have more logical economic investment.

This is because we have had to purchase and import a large quantity of machinery and equipment which has not been used optimally or even correctly. The equipment we have is not being used as much as it can, nor is it being used correctly. Therefore, most of the factories and industrial units of the country are not operating to their maximum capacity. Once we can reorganize them, we can use their resources more efficiently.

Thus, the single-parity rate for foreign exchange and abolition of heavy industry subsidies will be a positive factor ensuring more efficient use of the present facilities.

In the remaining industrial sectors it is possible that there may be need for new investment. In these sectors, economic activity has become more streamlined due to the adoption of the single-parity rate. The net results will eventually become clear. [passage omitted]

Decisions Adopted and Possible Solutions for the Liquidity Problem:

[RESALAT] Has the shortage of liquidity been accounted for in the budget for 1372 [year beginning 21 March 1993]? What decisions have been made about this problem and what are the possible solutions?

[Nezhad-Hoseynian] In the 1372 budget bill, a clause has been approved which will be ratified by the Supreme Economic Council. According to this clause, the banking system should present a report on the assistance it needs from the government to solve the liquidity problem with regard to fresh investment. We are hopeful that this article in the budget will be implemented, solving, for the most part, the problem of liquidity.

The "buy back" or "reciprocal sale" policy is one of the current means of ensuring the availability of financial resources for new investment. According to the first 5-year plan, we should have used the "buy back" policy as one of the levers for creating investment in the country. However, due to problems with investors in the prevalent banking system, this could not be done.

If this policy materializes it will be one of the best means for generating fresh investment. It will not only assist in the investment expenditure, but the nature of the investment will be a step toward the transfer of technical know how and production of export quality goods. This will resolve our two basic problems with industrial investment in the country: The lack of technology transfer in the industrial units and the inability of the industrial units to enter the international markets.

The Policy of Government Assistance in the Industrial Sector Under the New Economic Conditions:

[RESALAT] What are the general aims of the new customs regulations and the government assistance policy for the industrial sector? What will the conditions for indigenous manufacture of vehicles be and how will they be implemented?

[Nezhad-Hoseynian] With the approval of the new customs regulations, the vehicle market of the country will become a very competitive one. Of course the indigenous industry will enjoy a coefficient [zarib] of support. [passage omitted]

The Salient Features of the Vehicle Market in Current Economic Circumstances:

The heavy industries minister, alluding to the special features of the vehicle market in the current economic circumstances, said: Of course there are certain bottlenecks in the path of achieving an equilibrium in the market, which should be appropriately removed. [passage omitted]

The Assessment of the Heavy Industries Sector During the Years of the 5-Year Plan Which Have Been Completed:

[RESALAT] Nearly four years of the 5-year plan have been completed. What is your assessment of the performance of the heavy industries sector, especially in the current year?

[Nezhad-Hoseynian] The 5-year plan was formulated in a distinct economic atmosphere and the criteria for its assessment should be based on those particular conditions. The implementation of some of the new policies contained in the 5-year plan, has however, changed the economic situation and conditions in which the industrial units were functioning. [passage omitted]

In the 1369 [year beginning 21 March 1990] and 1370 [year beginning 21 March 1991] production was much higher than in the preceding years because the new economic policies had not yet been fully implemented as the policies were in an inchoate state. Some of the production was being done under the old policies of the distribution system, some was delegated to individuals and some to government departments.

In the current year, economic conditions changed totally in the heavy industries sector and most of the products entered the competitive market. This was in line with the policies envisaged in the 5-year plan. It is natural that in this competitive market we do not decide the production of factories, it depends on the market's demand. In the past, the foreign exchange allocated to the factories determined production and its increase.

The level of production in the industrial sector in the current year is lower than that envisioned in the 5-year plan. However, if the performance for this year is compared to [the performance in] areas under the new policies in the plan, our performance has been entirely successful. This means that the policies of the 5-year plan have been precisely implemented. If, on the other hand, we compare this year's performance with the statistics and criteria for the assessment as specified in the original 5-year plan, our performance this year lags behind.

Delegating of Factories to the People:

[RESALAT] Have any measures been devised to eliminate the losses incurred by government companies in the recent years? What should be done to increase the efficiency of industrial units?

[Nezhad-Hoseynian] In general, the government has not incurred any losses in the heavy industries sector. In the past year, all the industries under the aegis of the Heavy Industries Ministry reaped profits and they will continue to be profitable this year as well.

These companies also made up their cumulative losses from previous years. This is why we are insisting that companies in a favorable financial position should be

delegated to the people and the private sector. Government management cannot be as efficient due the regulations that government companies have to adhere to.

The weakness of the government companies stemmed from these rules and regulations and the lack of adequate economic incentive. Most of the government managers are extremely proficient. Therefore, the program to sell or delegate the factories is among the most important plans of the Heavy Industries Ministry.

In view of the positive financial condition of these factories, we are optimistic that soon we will be offering their shares to the people and the volume of the government's executive activities will be lessened.

The Position of the Heavy Industries Sector in the 1372 Budget:

[RESALAT] The Heavy Industries Ministry is one of the important economic departments of the country. What position does it have in the 1372 budget?

[Nezhad-Hoseynian] Since the single-parity rate for foreign exchange is to be implemented next [Iranian] year, the Heavy Industries Ministry is not going to get a special allocation for the next fiscal year in the 1372 budget and will receive whatever has been incorporated in the main budget, which is a small allotment this time. We have planned the implementation of only 10 major developmental projects which have been entrusted to the Industrial Development and Renovation Organization [IDRO] of Iran.

The Islamic Majles has entrusted the Heavy Industries Ministry with the task of selling the shares of the companies under government control, in order to procure the necessary credit.

All the investment next year will be conducted on the basis of the floating foreign currency rates and all projects will be calculated at this rate. Of course the income of IDRO, which will be channeled into fresh industrial investment, is exempt from taxes in order to facilitate new industrial investment in projects that are to be delegated to the people once they become operational.

IDRO will only invest in areas in which the people do not have the capacity or inclination to invest. It will never invest in an area in which the people are able to invest.

The Merger of Three Ministries of Industries and Minerals:

[RESALAT] What are the objectives of the bill, which will soon be discussed at the open session of the Majles, on the merger of the three ministries of industries and minerals?

[Nezhad-Hoseynian] In recent years, when we were moving toward the adoption of a single-parity rate, the executive activities of the industrial ministries were

decreasing gradually and in the coming years, they will dwindle even further. The main function of these ministries will change from "operating factories" to "policy-making." [passage omitted]

[RESALAT] With the slow pace of the process of delegating factories to the people, won't the merger of three ministries increase the volume of the work of the new ministry to a great extent?

[Nezhad-Hoseynian] With the adoption of the single-parity rate for foreign exchange, even if the government companies were to remain under the auspices of the government, executive activities would not increase with a merger. The executive activities of these companies and their former affiliation to the industrial ministries have already dwindled considerably.

Thus, the merger of three ministries is quite viable, and once the decision is made, it will be possible to carry out policy making in the industrial sector in a collective and coordinated manner.

Italy Seeks Promotion of Trade Cooperation

*LD1003110293 Tehran IRNA in English 1039 GMT
10 Mar 93*

[Text] Tehran, March 10, IRNA—Italy's state insurance company has offered Iran the most suitable insurance terms throughout Europe for the current calendar year, chairman of Irano-Italian Chamber of Commerce Mehdi Behkish said here Tuesday [9 March].

He said that Iran would adopt a unified exchange rate system as of the new Iranian calendar year 1372 (to begin March 21), the most practical step toward removing economic bottlenecks and taking advantage of the country's potentials.

Behkish noted that Italian entrepreneurs were interested in taking part in Qeshm free trade zone through launching investment projects, adding that no obstacle was blocking promotion of mutual cooperation.

In another development, secretary of the chamber Amir Hushang Shirzadi said that a delegation from Italian Embassy in Tehran would visit Qeshm free trade zone on Wednesday to study preliminaries for joint ventures.

Shirzadi noted that Italian entrepreneurs would import motorcars and household appliances to Qeshm with no customs tariffs and duties. Foreign businessmen, he added, would be provided with modern housing facilities.

Italian companies have expressed their interest in taking part in such projects as hotel construction and installation of industrial units with an objective to export the products, the official said.

He announced the chamber's readiness to arrange inspection tours for Italian entrepreneurs to visit the area and become acquainted with its potentials.

Daily Denigrates Performance of Mass Media

NC0903175493 Tehran SALAM in Persian 24 Feb 93 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "Information Assault"]

[Text] Discussing the performance of the mass media, the director general of the Islamic Republic News Agency [IRNA] said: "The expansion of cultural links by reporting news and information is the best vaccination [preceding word in English] against the enemy's information onslaught. It requires the production of effective and useful news and information on the part of the mass media. All the resources of news and cultural organizations should be mustered so that the slightest change or development does not go unobserved by the perceptive eyes of correspondents."

In his statement, the director general implies there are discrepancies in our media. But why is it this way?

1. One of the reasons is the weakness of the employees of the mass media. Even though our objective is not to embark on a serious discussion of the reasons for this weakness, one point is essential: the motivation necessary to create an efficient and expert work force in the field of mass communications. This motivation can be material or otherwise. Unfortunately, the material motivation in this field is lacking; but what is really important is boosting the non-material aspects of job satisfaction. This factor is directly related to the [improvement of] substantive activity in the field of the mass media.

Freedom in the writing of news reports (within the framework of law) and the guarantee of job security is one of the important issues which can create such motivation. If the employees of the mass media have only a minimum of job security, where one report or article that is disapproved of can get an entire publications group fired, why should we expect people to want to join this profession?

2. We should also concede that our mass media, including the press, does not have a very efficient work force. This lack of efficiency stems from the atmosphere prevailing over the news and information policy of our country.

News reports that are vague and that have, at times, been tailored for dissemination by the foreign mass media are cited by the news agencies and publications. Our officials are unfamiliar with the domestic means of mass communication, even with the government organizations such as the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the news agency, and some major newspapers. This is far from conducive to the production of news and information.

There is also the issue of the forbidden realms of news. The fact that many questions are left hanging in mid-air without any answers by our officials means many issues remain covert and only filter through the foreign media. The recent incidents in Qom [reference to reports on

Montazeri's house arrest] is an example how people outside of Iran sometimes have far greater information than Iranian citizens themselves. The official news agency of the country even issued a special version of the matter for foreign consumption!

3. Unfortunately in Iran the importance of the news is not assessed beyond the report itself. The society's impression of comprehensive management in the field of news, information, and mass communication is that news and information is released only when it strengthens the management's position, and suits its purposes. If a director has these expectations from the mass media, there is nothing to stop a minister or a lawyer. Their expectations of the mass media are far greater. They believe that publications should merely be a personal bulletin (for the officials) and not a strong modern institution for the service of society, the country and the people.

We should recognize that no other modern service in Iran has been used in such an irrational and unreasonable way. It does not help to strengthen the bases of society, but instead serves to undermine it.

We are not currently making optimum use of modern phenomena. For example, we are buying computers for one and all and playing Atari games on them, not using them sensibly for advanced technology. We should at least try to recognize this fact.

The latest phenomenon in the world is the swift and complete dissemination of news, reports and messages, but there is a traditional opposition to it. Thus, not only is this phenomenon not being used for the growth, expansion, and stability of the society, it is hurting society.

It would not be an exaggeration to say one of the most important issues of society is the need to change the current perception of management of the news and the means of mass communication. Unless this is done, there is no hope of reform in our media.

4. It has been said that the dissemination of news and information is the best vaccination against the blitz of information that we are bombarded with by the enemy. It appears that even though this is true, this is not the main objective of the news. There is a difference between feeding and vaccination. A human being requires nourishment, vitamins and calories. This fulfills his needs and at the same time immunizes him from disease. But he does not eat for the sake of resisting disease. Even if there is no disease present, he will still need to eat in order to survive.

The objective for disseminating news and information is not merely to vaccinate against the blitz of information, that is peripheral. Today's society needs news to grow, expand, and continue existing. If there were no countries in the world except Iran and there were no attacks or

onslaughts, would there be no need for news and information? No, this is not the case and we should understand the true role of news and information, it is essential to the expansion of the mass media.

Azerbaijan, Gilan Province Sign Cooperation Protocol

NC0803113593 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish* 1630 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] Azerbaijan and the Gilan province in Iran will cooperate in industrial production. One of Iran's industrial advisers for Gilan province who has visited Baku to hold talks on realizing the protocol signed between Azerbaijan and Gilan province has said that an industrial exhibition will open in Azerbaijan and Gilan next month. He also said the two sides will exchange visits to improve cultural relations and will organize sports activities.

Judiciary Meeting on Modernizing Procedures

LD0803172793 *Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian* 1530 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Judiciary officials met today to discuss the modernization of judicial procedure and to stress the need for greater speed and care. The meeting also heard a report on a sensitive murder case in Bushehr, and thanked the relevant law enforcement officials.

Prior to the meeting the Supreme Disciplinary Court for Judges met to review the case of two judges who had been accused of violations. However, after sufficient study the accusations against the judges were found to be unfounded and the head of the judiciary ordered their names to be cleared.

Nonstate Sector Controls 85 Percent of Mines

LD0803224893 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian* 2030 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] The nonstate sector is exploiting 85 percent of the country's active mines.

Announcing this, a spokesman for the Ministry of Mines and Metals said the country has 2,100 mines producing 43 different minerals; 1,400 of these mines have been handed over to the nongovernment, private, and cooperative sectors, and 700 other mines are ready to be handed over. The aim of this policy is to improve the nongovernment sector's investment in the field of research and exploitation of mines, he said.

All the [state] regional companies have been dissolved and their mines—a total of 220—have been handed to the nonstate sector and the workers, he added.

Customs Office Reports on Non-Oil Exports

LD1003121193 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian* 1030 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Since the beginning of Farvardin [month beginning 21 March] to the end of Bahman [month ending on 21 January] this year [year ending 21 March 93], Iran has exported 3,275 tonnes of goods worth \$2.6 billion. The goods represent a 35 percent increase in weight and a 15 percent increase in value compared to the same 11 months of last year. The Islamic Republic of Iran's Customs office announced that in the past 11 months total exports were made up of 38 percent carpets and 12 percent in pistachio nuts. Copper and aluminium plates, furs, clothing, tricot, raisins, and bricks constituted the other most important goods exported from Iran between Farvardin to the end of Bahman of this year.

Pakistan

U.S. Decision To Declare Iran Terrorist State Viewed

BK1003083793 *Lahore PAKISTAN in Urdu* 9 Mar 93 p 10

[Editorial: "U.S. decision to declare Iran a terrorist state"]

[Text] The U.S. State Department has declared Iran as the most dangerous terrorist country in the world. The United States has its own standards and interests when it forms an idea about someone. However, as the world's superpower, it was generally expected of the United States that it would not adopt any violent attitude toward any country, including Iran, with whom it has strained relations. Relations between countries and nations keep changing—sometimes friendly, sometimes repugnant, but never acrimonious. There might also be some change in Iran's attitude. If the United States releases all of Iran's frozen assets, recognizes its influence in the regional affairs, and adopts a conciliatory attitude toward it, there is no reason why U.S.-Iran relations could not become normal. The U.S. step can only be described as hasty. If the objective exists of bringing in a new, just world order after the end of the Cold War, there should be some measures to bring about equilibrium in the global situation. The responsibility of the United States in this regard does not need any explanation.

President Khan Meets Ambassador on U.S. Relations

BK0903135193 *Rawalpindi NAWA-I-WAQF in Urdu* 8 Mar 93 pp 1, 7

[Text] Islamabad—Begum Syeda Abida Hussain, Pakistan's ambassador to the United States, who arrived in Islamabad on the evening of 8 March, had an important meeting with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan at the president's house in Islamabad the next day. The

meeting lasted more than an hour. Informed sources say that Begum Syeda Abida Hussain, who arrived in Islamabad for important consultations, exchanged views with the president on the latest matters regarding Pakistan-U.S. relations. The sources said that Begum Abida Hussain also delivered an important message from former congressman Stephen Solarz to the president. It may be recalled that Stephen Solarz is to arrive in Pakistan on 11 March for a two-day visit. The sources add that Begum Abida also exchanged views with the president on the issue of the United States declaring Pakistan a terrorist country. The president said that Pakistan is a peace-loving country and it condemns terrorism anywhere in the world.

The president asked Begum Abida to work for further improving Pakistan-U.S. relations so as to remove the misunderstanding between the two countries and to develop friendly ties. The president told Begum Abida that Pakistan has long-standing relations with the United States and it does not like to see any stalemate in this regard. Begum Abida also apprised the president of the new U.S. policy toward Pakistan. During her meeting with Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, Begum Abida will exchange views with the prime minister on his meeting with Secretary of State Warren Christopher and the agenda of their talks during the prime minister's visit to the United States which is expected to take place after the I'd al-Fitr [25 or 26 March].

Court Rules Northern Areas Part of Kashmir

BK1003120093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0550 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Islamabad, March 9 (AFP)—The high court in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir has declared northern areas of Pakistan part of Kashmir, and asked Islamabad for assistance in establishing control over them, press reports said Tuesday.

In a 288-page verdict, the chief justice of Azad Jammu and Kashmir High Court, Abdul Majid, said Monday that these areas were part of Kashmir state before 1947. Their administration was handed over to Pakistan in 1949 on an interim basis.

The judge directed the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) government to take immediate steps for taking these areas under its control, the reports said.

He declared all existing laws and regulations there null and void and asked the AJK government to give representation to local people in the territory's legislative assembly and recruit them into government departments.

The northern areas, known as Gilgit and Baltistan, which contain some of the world's highest mountain peaks, have the status of agencies under direct control of the federal Government of Pakistan since the 1947 partition of the subcontinent on independence from Britain.

Pakistan-controlled Kashmir has a semi-autonomous status. It is called Azad (free) Jammu and Kashmir, but its foreign policy and defence are entrusted with Islamabad.

The other two-thirds of Kashmir are held by India, which has fought two wars with Pakistan over their conflicting territorial claims.

Islamabad had not reacted to the AJK high court decision Tuesday.

Government To Appeal Decision

BK1003121093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1120 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Islamabad, March 10 (AFP)—The Islamabad government will file an appeal against the decision of a court in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir asserting Kashmiri sovereignty over five districts of northern Pakistan, a senior official said Wednesday.

The administrative control of the five districts, which include major peaks of the Himalayan and Karakoram ranges and a strategic roadlink with China, could not be handed over to the government of Azad (free) Kashmir, he said.

The Siachen Glacier, where Pakistani and Indian troops have been engaged in a tussle for control for almost a decade, lies in one of the districts, Sakardu. The other districts are Gilgit, Diamer, Ghezer and Gangche.

The appeal will be made to the Supreme Court of Azad Kashmir within the stipulated 60 day period, the official added.

The territory's high court ruled Monday that the area had been part of Kashmir before the region was partitioned between Pakistan and India in 1947.

It directed the Azad Kashmir government to extend its administrative control to the five districts and urged Islamabad to help implement the decision.

Several Kashmiri parties including the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), one of the groups fighting for independence in the Indian-controlled southern two thirds of Kashmir, have welcomed the court's decision.

JKLF chairman, Ammanullah Khan called on Kashmiris to strive unitedly for the merger of the northern areas with Azad Kashmir.

Spokesman Wants Indian Dialogue Without 'Preconditions'

BK1003121193 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman today clarified that Pakistan has never turned down an offer of dialogue with India on all outstanding issues, including Jammu and

Kashmir. Answering questions by newsmen in Islamabad, he said Pakistan continues to be open on such a dialogue which should be without preconditions and on the basis of mutual respect. He said if India reciprocates this desire, we can hold dialogue.

The spokesman, when asked to comment on the interview of Indian Foreign Minister Mr. Dinesh Singh to a Dubai newspaper that he would go to Pakistan for talks, said Pakistan would welcome such a visit if it was aimed at discussion on all outstanding issues. He said unfortunately so far India has not reciprocated the sincere desire of Pakistan to hold a dialogue without preconditions on all outstanding issues.

Government Role in Afghan Peace Talks Praised

BK0903145793 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 9 Mar 93 p 10

[Editorial: "Fingers crossed on Afghanistan"]

[Text] The Islamabad accord on Afghan peace has replaced the Peshawar Accord which didn't work. Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif had worked hard in 1991 to get the Afghan warlords together; he has worked equally hard in 1993. His government had hailed the Peshawar Accord as its big achievement, but the IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] itself was in two minds about it. A part of it had denounced it and had accused Mian Sahib of selling the Afghan Jihad down the river. This time, the factions in Pakistan are happy, but some of the warlords crucial to implementing the peace signed by President Rabani and Eng Hekmatyar together with other leaders have not attended the discussions. In fact, while the Accord was being discussed, the fighting in Kabul was going on. The new Accord has given President Rabani another 18 months till the middle of 1994, but he will have to rule together with Hekmatyar as prime minister. In a fortnight, the new prime minister will come from the Hezb, and the Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud will bow out in favour of a defence council. Eng Hekmatyar will form his cabinet in consultation with the president and other mujahedin outfits. An election commission will be set up without delay and charged with the task of forming a grand constituent assembly within 8 months. This assembly will frame the constitution under which the president and the prime minister will be elected within the stipulated 18 months. In the interim, the heavy arms will be surrendered by all parties, prisoners freed and roads opened for all traffic. These are some of the important causes of the Islamabad Accord which was witnessed by Saudi Arabia and I through official proxy.

Full marks must go to Islamabad for effective diplomacy in getting all the Afghan Mujahedin leaders together, and getting Iran and Saudi Arabia to participate in the discussions. All the ingredients of a legal consensual accord are in place, and yet what the IJI government did in 1991 has been neatly overturned. General (Retd) Hamid Gul and Qazi Hussain Ahmed have got their candidate

Hekmatyar centre stage once again with all the breaches in Islamabad repaired. They have tied up the Afghan consensus on a different arrangement which testifies to the leverage Pakistan still enjoys; and international acknowledgement of this leverage has come in the shape of participation by Saudi Arabia and Iran. Pakistan is back together with Hekmatyar in good time, if for nothing else then for the safeguarding of the Pakhtun rights in Afghanistan which he has come to represent. Two objectives seem to dovetail; preventing the splitting of Afghanistan along the lines of warlords' areas of influence; getting the war-clogged roads to Central Asia open for commerce and trade. The problem however is that the Islamabad Accord can be implemented if the two commanders that didn't attend agree to the new scheme of things. The new diplomacy may have achieved a split in the Jam'iat of Rabbani, but this split may lead to an alliance in the north and north-east that could split the country in two. And then the war will go on, meaning that Pakistan can't get to Central Asia; and its subsidised wheat and ghee go on getting whisked into Afghanistan. The mujahedin have signed and must deliver, if honour is anything to go by. After Islamabad Accord, there will be no accords, and Afghanistan has a strong inclination to go the way of Somalia because the warlords here have weapons to fight with and a divided population willing to kill for their leaders. As the frontline state, Pakistan stands most to lose if peace in Afghanistan is not achieved.

Sharif To Pay Brief Visit to Tehran 11 March

BK0903160693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, will pay a brief visit to Tehran on Thursday [11 March] on an invitation by Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, told APP in al-Medina Munawara today that the visit is aimed at sharing joy on the signing of the Afghan accord. Iran played a positive role in reaching the historic accord. The prime minister will visit Tehran on his way back home from Saudi Arabia.

71 on Death Row in Saudi Arabia on Drug Charges

BK0903143193 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 9 Mar 93 p 12

[Text] Peshawar—71 Pakistanis convicted of drug trafficking in Saudi Arabia are on the death row.

Informed sources said, in all 75 persons, including four Afghans, were arrested after the recovery of heroin from their possession.

A number of Pakistanis have been beheaded in Saudi Arabia in recent past as drug trafficking in Saudi laws is punishable by death penalty.

The sources said majority of the 71 arrested belonged to Peshawar, Chasadda, Swabi, Mardan in the Frontier Province and the FATA [Federally Administered Tribal Area] while a few hailed from Islamabad, Lahore, Bahawalnagar, Karachi and Larkana. It was, however, not known how many of those convicted have so far been executed. The executions are usually carried out on Fridays.

According to these sources, the accused in their statements to the Saudi authorities have disclosed they were 'red into the narcotics business due to unemployment. They were said to be mostly illiterate and unaware of the harsh punishment for drug-trafficking in Saudi Arabia.

The sources said the mafia exploited the religious sentiments of the people by offering the "innocent villagers" air fare to Saudi Arabia to perform Umrah and look after their boarding and lodging in the holy land, besides lucrative jobs if they agreed to act as carriers for which they are reportedly offered Rs [Rupees] 8,000 per 100 gram heroin.

Most of those arrested carried from half a kg to one kg heroin filled in capsules and swallowed. One Muhammad Khan son of Taj Muhammad of Peshawar carried 1,080 grams heroin on his body.

Interestingly, majority of these who were arrested were between the age of 20 and 35.

The drug carriers were mostly flown on the Saudi Airlines and the PIA [Pakistan International Airlines], which according to the sources, have given rise to suspicion that some officials of the custom-immigration of the two countries might be working hand in glove with the mafia.

In fact the continuous drug-trafficking and the arrest of several drug traffickers has alarmed Saudi authorities, who were hitherto unaware of the drug menace. The authorities here as well as in Saudi Arabia, however, have not been able to track down the main culprits running the ghastly business. The most they could extract from those arrested were the names, descriptions and addresses of the suppliers, which in most case have proved wrong. Even the 75 people arrested were travelling under false names.

The most deplorable aspect of this saga, however, is the apathy of the Pakistan government which has failed miserably to take effective measures to stop the ongoing trade, which has not only brought bad name to Pakistan in a brotherly country but is also costing precious lives of people.

Sharif Establishes Task Force on Central Asia

BK0903152093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] The prime minister has constituted a task force on Central Asia. The force named as the Prime Minister's Task Force on Central Asia would work under the

overall supervision of the special assistant to the prime minister. Mr. Mushahid Hussain will be the chairman; and Dr. Akmal Hussain, economist; Dr. Ahmed Hasan Dani, honorary adviser of archaeology; Mr. Yaqub Tabani of Tabani group of industries; and Mr. Zakauddin Malik, former chairman of the OGDC [Oil and Gas Development Corporation], will be members of the task force. The task force will identify areas of cooperation in trade and culture and economic fields and suggest short and medium-term action program regarding joint ventures in various fields. The task force, constituted for a period of two years, will submit its advance recommendations to the prime minister within six months.

Comments on CIA Chief Remarks on Nuclear Issue

BK0803110793 Rawalpindi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 3 Mar 93 p 10

[Editorial: "U.S. Authorities' Admission of Reality"]

[Text] The new chief of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency has told the Senate's Foreign Relations Committee meeting that the danger of a nuclear war between India and Pakistan exists; that India's nuclear program is older and relatively more extensive with India having exploded a nuclear device in 1974; and that both countries are capable of manufacturing nuclear weapons. The Senate committee's chairman, Senator John Glenn, has said that Pakistan does not meet the conditions of the Pressler Amendment, while India has constantly been producing plutonium that can be used in manufacturing nuclear weapons; and that a nuclear war between India and Pakistan was narrowly averted in 1990.

The views expressed by these two powerful Americans are not new and are more or less a part of the same on-going propaganda against Pakistan. They have, however, accepted the fact that India's nuclear program is more extensive and that it has already conducted a nuclear test, and is now busy producing plutonium for new bombs. Although they have not stated it directly, nobody is better informed than the CIA chief as to how many Indian nuclear reactors are presently working without being under any international safeguards. New Delhi now also possesses plants for manufacturing heavy water.

The U.S. already has a well-established and notable record of overlooking the Indian program, and Washington's new policy of pampering New Delhi is further tarnishing that record. The fact is that both the U.S. lawmakers and the administration have remained under the influence of special lobbies and, instead of seeking clarifications from India, are unnecessarily accusing Pakistan of making nuclear preparations. There is no country in the Indian Subcontinent or the entire Asian Continent, which does not face the threat of Indian nuclear weapons or which has not been the victim of Indian aggression. Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives

have already faced direct Indian military aggression, while an economic blockade was enforced against Nepal.

Now, if the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman has admitted the fact that Pakistan does not meet the conditions of the Pressler Amendment, then he should also advise his country's administration to end its discriminatory policy against Pakistan [sentence as published]. We hope President Clinton will consider his advice seriously, because he has also assumed power with an election pledge of cultivating ethics in politics.

Sri Lanka

Concern Over Adverse Balance of Trade With India

BK1003121793 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in English 1045 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] The third meeting of the India-Sri Lanka Joint Business Council was held last Monday in Colombo. The Indian delegation was led by Mr. S. Muthukrishnan and the Sri Lankan delegation was led by Mr. W.G. Perera, chairman of the Sri Lanka-India Joint Business Council. The meeting was inaugurated by Mr. R.A. Gunatillake, secretary, ministry of trade and commerce. The address was welcome was by Mr. Patrick Amratunga, president FCCISL [expansion unknown] and Indian high commissioner, Mr. Nareshwar Dayal addressed those present.

Several important issues were discussed. They included the balance of trade between India and Sri Lanka, the impact of liberalization of the Indian economy, and preferential duty arrangements in joint ventures. The Sri

Lanka side expressed their concern over the growing adverse balance of trade position with India and urged for more purchases to be made from Sri Lanka. It was emphasized that it was equally important that more Indian investments should flow into Sri Lanka and more joint ventures should be set up in Sri Lanka. Advantage should be taken of the incentives that are being offered and the facilities being extended by the Sri Lanka Government.

Foreign Investment Projects Approved This Year

BK0903114793 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in English 1045 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Foreign investment in Sri Lanka during the first forty days of the year has reached a record high of 6.8 billion rupees with 58 projects given the green light, a Board of Investment official said yesterday. He further said that for the whole of last year 291 projects were approved with the total investment of 36.6 billion rupees. A further eight projects have been signed up to 5 March by companies from the PRC manufacturing gems and jewelry. Taiwan and Singapore are also coming into the jewelry trade in a big way. Others in the run up for investment opportunities are chemicals, rubber and plastic, food and beverages, horticulture, infrastructure development, electronic and electrical appliances, jewelry and lapidary [word indistinct] services, consultancy services and trading houses. These incentives are also extended to indirect exporters as well as those providing export marketing services. It is expected that with the grant of this package of incentives the private sector will play a dynamic role in development.